

# Town of Williamstown, Massachusetts

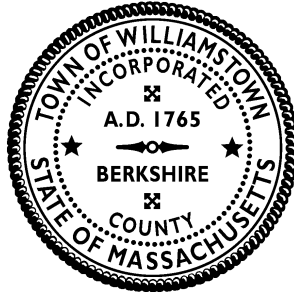
2011

## ANNUAL REPORT



**Town of Williamstown  
Massachusetts**

**2011  
Annual Report**



Department reports are for the calendar year 2011 unless otherwise noted  
Financial report covers the fiscal year ending June 30, 2011

Prepared by Kathy Poirot  
Cover photo by, Timothy Kaiser  
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[www.williamstown.net](http://www.williamstown.net)

## COVER STORY....

**Preparation:** On Saturday, August 27, 2011, town officials met for a morning conference call with the National Weather Service and the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency to coordinate their efforts in preparation for Tropical Storm Irene expected to batter the county on Sunday. Officials strongly urged residents at the Spruces Mobile Home Park to evacuate due to threats of flooding. Town Manager and Emergency Management Director Peter Fohlin said with all of the information officials have gathered, he believed the Spruces would flood on Sunday and the town was prepared to evacuate the Spruces. Dufour Bus Company was on call with a school bus and the Council on Aging van was ready. Residents were instructed to park their vehicles in the Mount Greylock Regional High School's parking lot to avoid potential damage. The Spruces' manager, Kim Purcelli said residents had been called and they went door to door asking them to leave. Spruces residents who could not get out on their own had been instructed to call the Council on Aging for transportation. Ms. Purcelli said she knew that many would not leave. The Elementary School was opened as a shelter for all residents at 7 a.m. on Sunday but officials wanted residents to use it only as a last resort. Pets were allowed if they were in crates. Fire Chief Craig Pedercini was also available to contact National Grid to cut power to any home that may face electrical problems that could cause a fire. Town department heads had planned out shifts for employees to be working throughout the storm and the Emergency Operations Center had been opened and staffed throughout the night.



**After the Storm:** By Sunday evening, August 29th, four people and one cat were rescued by boat from the mobile home park after the Hoosic River overflowed. The park had been flooded with as high as four to five feet of water. A bus was brought into the park to evacuate residents earlier in the morning but some refused to leave. While town officials projected 20 residents would be homeless, Spruces' manager Kim Purcelli said she expected more. Park residents had been asked to call the park's number, which was forwarded to Wheel Estates in North Adams, to provide contact information. She said that the park flooded much quicker than had been expected and that evening many residents waded through the water in an attempt to get back to their unsafe homes.

**The First Week:** Mr. Fohlin said at least two-hundred families were displaced after the flooding of Tropical Storm Irene. Building Commissioner Michael Card said all homes in the park were "functionally unoccupiable" until further notice, meaning that they were uninhabitable. He said the water that came into the park during the storm was deep enough to seep into electrical boxes

of the homes, and in some cases, pull the boxes away from the boards where they were attached. In addition the water bent and pulled off gas pipes from under the homes. In many cases, water was above the floors of the homes, which means the state of sanitary code needed to be inspected. Residents of the park were allowed to return to their homes Monday to retrieve possessions and pets. Police officers, town officials, firefighters, emergency medical technicians and management of the Spruces escorted them in and out of the park. Everything was covered in mud and many vehicles were ruined. While many that evacuated in preparation of the storm stayed with relatives and friends, town officials met in the afternoon to find accommodations for ten people and seven animals that remained in the emergency shelter at the elementary school. After a request from town officials, the Berkshire County Chapter of the Red Cross mobilized a shelter team at St. John's Episcopal Church bringing cots, blankets, food, water and other supplies. A few people stayed at Town Hall. Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency officials arrived at the park on Monday afternoon to assess the damage.

One time vouchers for \$20 each for gas and food were available through the First Congregational Church. St. Patrick's Church helped with necessities and food. Meals were available through the Williamstown Council on Aging by reservation and local motels gave Spruces residents reduced rates.

On Tuesday, six units were preliminarily cleared for health code issues such that "condemned" placards were not placed on them and residents were waiting testing and approval of their electrical and gas connections in order to reoccupy their homes.

Five units were labeled "condemned" due to exposure to flood waters raising concerns for mold, other unhealthful contaminants and damage to electrical and structural components.

The Disaster Assistance Center at the Elementary School included representation from the Department of Mental Health, Elder Affairs, Housing and Community Development, Labor, Transitional Assistance, Public Health and the Division of Insurance. Forty-eight individuals had been serviced at the Center since it opened Wednesday afternoon before its closure.

By late Thursday morning, Governor Deval Patrick toured the park and called on the federal government to provide a swift response in helping the residents.



State Representative Gail Cariddi stopped at the park daily. The Spruces Tenants Association set up a disaster relief fund at the Williamstown Savings Bank and information on housing options was distributed to park residents. The town created daily update flyers that were handed out at the park's gate. By Thursday, September 1<sup>st</sup>, local and state inspectors had completed their assessments and each mobile home had received an official color code rating and reflected on a map posted at the Spruces, Town Hall, The Williamstown Police Department, The Harper Center, the Disaster Assistance Center at the Elementary School gym and at The St. John's Shelter on Park Street.

The FEMA Disaster Recovery Center and the State Departments of Mental Health and Public Health opened at 430 Main Street.

**The Second Week:** Spruces residents were advised to register with FEMA by phone and go to its office at 430 Main Street. The First Congregational Church began collecting donations and a Community Fund for the Spruces was set up at the South Adams Savings Bank. Inspectors continued to work to identify the status of the units at the park. By September 12<sup>th</sup> the Health Department had judged 154 of 225 homes "condemned". A second FEMA help site was set up under a tent at the park. Electricity had been restored to 42 homes. Five homes passed structural, electrical, and gas inspections and could be reoccupied. Nineteen homes passed structural inspection, twenty-five more required contractor repairs, thirty-five more required evaluation by an engineer before repairs. Community dinners were held at St. John's Episcopal Church and the First Baptist Church hosted one at the Spruces.

**September:** Town officials continued to stress that residents contact FEMA by stopping at the Disaster Relief Center to at least find out what type of assistance they qualified for. As of September 19<sup>th</sup> only 11 of the 270 residents had moved back into their trailers and facing the realization that most of the homes may never be inhabitable again, town and community leaders came together to brainstorm long-term housing solutions. Although no solutions were reached that day, they resolved to continue meeting, combining their efforts with the state-led Housing Task Force. In the interim, community organizations have stepped up; using locally raised funds to pay for motels, although they say money is running out. FEMA began supporting residents with temporary housing assistance. Robin Lenz, coordinator for the Interfaith Emergency Response Team reported that while some people have already relocated, those who lived in The Spruces have been part of the fabric of the Williamstown community and it's important not to lose them. Cynthia Clermont-Rebello, president of The Spruces' Tenants Association, said residents have been returning home day-by-day but it was the in the older section of the park. In a letter dated September 30<sup>th</sup>, deputy chief of the Consumer Protection Division David Monahan, requested that owners of The Spruces Morgan Management, arrange a meeting with him to discuss Morgan Management's legal obligations regarding clean-up and recovery at the park. That included trash removal, providing safe roadways and electrical service that was not available in certain sections of the park.

**October:** Through various fundraisers and donations, the Community Fund for The Spruces had raised more than \$77,000 and 71 displaced residents had applied and received funds, the average grant being \$400. With the cold weather coming, town officials continued to move as quickly as it could in responding to applications and calls from The Spruces residents. By then, 41 homes had been approved for occupancy with potentially 16 more seeking approval. Building Commissioner Michael Card said an engineering firm had stepped forward to work toward design plans for residents who didn't have to flood-proof their homes, but who needed to replace piers holding the units up. By mid-month, 6 homeowners had agreements reached during mediation at the

Berkshire Superior Court after Associate Justice Fields of the Western Division of the Housing Court Department ordered Morgan Management to temporarily and/or permanently restore electricity to the units. On October 21<sup>st</sup>, the Interfaith Clergy Emergency Response became a non-profit group, called Higher Ground. Its mission statement was to provide relief for those affected by Tropical Storm Irene, to prepare for future disasters and partner with regional groups to create more affordable housing in the area.

**November:** The deadline for registering for FEMA benefits was November 2<sup>nd</sup>. Higher Ground began to offer support groups for The Spruces residents. Higher Ground's coordinator Robin Lenz said the support groups would be held in North Adams and Williamstown beginning in January 2012. The groups will be led by therapist trained by the Riverside Trauma Center. While Higher Ground's long-term goal is advocating for more affordable housing in Northern Berkshire, it continues to focus on serving the immediate and unmet needs of Spruces residents. Ms. Lenz said the average grant received by Spruces residents from FEMA was \$12,000 and those funds went quickly toward purchasing a new home or paying for an apartment, furnishings and demolition of their trailers. By November 14<sup>th</sup>, 50 certificates of occupancy were issued and electricity had been restored to 9 more units totaling 84. Demolition permits were issued for 25 units.

**December:** By December 12<sup>th</sup>, 54 certificates of occupancy and 57 demolition permits were issued. Letters were sent to FEMA on behalf of 138 owners of condemned trailers in an effort to release additional federal funds up to the \$30,200 maximum for owner-occupants who qualified. Eight out of 14 submitted have qualified so far. Building Commissioner Michael Card and the engineers from Techno Post had finalized a design for new trailer supports. FEMA Grants disbursed to Spruces residents: \$3,597,195 in Individual Assistance (IA). Of the 187 residents who applied for IA, 7 received \$10,291 - \$19,918; 46 received \$1,298 - \$9,059; 7 received \$504 - \$699 and 23 received \$0. One hundred four (104) residents received \$29,600 - \$30,200.

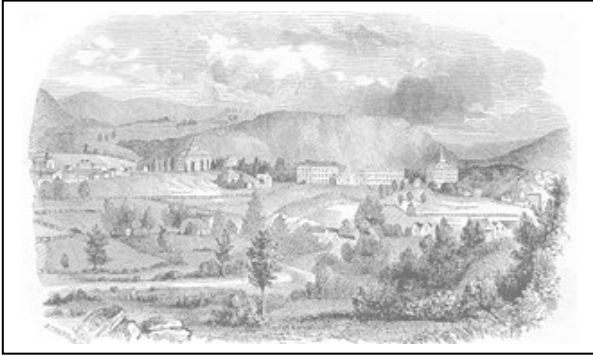
### **The Future: By Robin Lenz, Higher Ground**

From Route 2 the Spruces Mobile Home Park looks fairly recovered, but those who travel inside the park will find terrible devastation. Eventually, 153 homes would be declared uninhabitable. Although the final numbers may change slightly, approximately 64 homes were declared habitable, and those families were able to return. However, those who have returned to the Spruces live with uncertainty about the Park's future.

Recognizing that the people who lived there, the elderly and the disabled, are among our more vulnerable population, our town employees and town committees worked through the winter to develop affordable housing, including zoning for accessory apartments, building projects, and an affordable housing trust, all to be voted on at Town Meeting, May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2012. Higher Ground seeks to build disaster replacement housing and continues to help those affected by the worst natural disaster in our town's history.

## FACTS

In 1753, the town was established as a plantation called “West Hoosuck.” In 1765, the town was incorporated and its name changed to Williamstown when Colonel Ephraim Williams’ will, stipulating the change in return for the bequest of his estate to the town to be used for the purpose of founding a free school. Fifteen students were admitted to the free school in 1793. Williams College was granted a charter by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.



Elevation: 740 ft. above Sea Level

Area: 46.86 Square Miles  
Population: 8170 which includes  
approximately 2,000 Williams  
College Student Body  
Registered Voters: 3913

Town Website:  
[www.williamstown.net](http://www.williamstown.net)

## SCHOOLS

### Public

Williamstown Elementary School  
Mt. Greylock Regional High School  
Charles H. McCann Vocational School  
(Grades 9-12 North Adams)  
Berkshire Arts and Technologies Charter School  
(Grades 6-12 Adams)

### Private

Pine Cobble (preK-9)  
Buxton (Secondary)  
Williams College

## MAJOR EMPLOYERS

Williams College  
Williamstown Commons  
Williamstown Medical Associates  
Countryside Landscaping  
Mt. Greylock Reg. High School

Sweet Brook Nursing Care Centers  
Clark Art Institute  
Williamstown Savings Bank  
Town of Williamstown  
Williams Inn

## CURRENT TOWN OFFICIALS

### ELECTED OFFICIALS

#### BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Thomas E. Sheldon, Chair	2012	Ronald Turbin	2013
Tom Costley	2013	Jane B. Allen	2014
David A. Rempell	2014		

#### MODERATOR

Mark Gold	2013
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#### LIBRARY TRUSTEES

Marilyn Faulkner, Chair	2012	Peter Mehlin	2013
Nancy McIntire	2013	Rebecca Ohm	2013
Mark Maniak	2013	David Dewey	2014
Kathleen Schultze	2014		

#### ELEMENTARY SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Margaret McComish, Chair	2013		
Adam Filson	2012	Jennifer Thompson	2012
Valerie Hall	2013	John Skavlem	2014

#### HOUSING AUTHORITY

Betty Anne LaBombard, Executive Director			
Mark Reinhardt, Chair	2013 (state appointed)	Kathy Thompson	2012
Richard Hamblin	2015	Peter Mehlin	2016

#### NORTHERN BERKSHIRE VOCATIONAL REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Thomas Mahar	2012	James Gazzaniga	2013
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#### MT. GREYLOCK REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Robert Ericson, Chair	2014	Heather Williams	2012
John Hickey	2012	David Backus	2012
Carolyn Greene	2014	David Langston	2014
Sheri Peltier	2014		

#### PLANNING BOARD

Patrick Dunlavey, Chair	2014	Chris Winters	2012
Richard DeMayo	2013	Ann McCallum	2015
Elizabeth McGowan	2015	Susan Schneski, Associate	2013



**OFFICIALS APPOINTED BY THE MODERATOR**

**FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Charles Fox	2012	Paula Consolini	2012
Elizabeth Goodman	2013	Paul Lovegreen	2013
Andrew Hogeland	2013	Doris Karampatsos	2014
Suzanne Dewey	2014	Dan Gendron	2014

**OFFICIALS APPOINTED BY THE SELECTMEN**

**AFFORDABLE HOUSING COMMITTEE**

Cathy Yamamoto, Chair	2012	Cheryl Shanks	2012
Charles Bonenti	2012	Kim Burnham	2012
Van Ellet	2012	Bilal Ansari	2012

**AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION**

Lisa DeMayo	2014	Andrew Bernardy	2014
Beth Phelps	2015	Kim Wells	2015
Rich Haley	2015	Sarah Gardner, Alt.	2015

**BERKSHIRE REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY (BRTA)**

Brian O’Grady	2012	(Appointed by the Chairman)
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**CABLE TELEVISION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Jeffrey Kurpaska	2012	Vacancy	2013
Mary Kavanaugh	2014		

**COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE**

**Town Resident**

Malcolm Smith	2014
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**Other Representatives Designated by their Committees:**

Philip McKnight (Conservation Commission), Chair	Linda Conway (Historical Commission)
Chris Winters (Planning Board Committee)	Dan Gendron (Finance Committee)
David Rempell (Parks Commissioner)	Peter Fohlin (Town Manager)
Mark Reinhart (Housing Authority)	

**CONSTABLES**

Joseph J. Zoito, Jr.	2012	Paul Yarter	2012
Andrew Bernardy	2014		

**CULTURAL COUNCIL of NORTHERN BERKSHIRE**

Juliana Haubrich	2012	Stephen Dankner	2013
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**FENCE VIEWERS**

Marilyn Kirby	2012	Cheryl Shanks	2012
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**HOOSAC WATER QUALITY DISTRICT**

Charles Schlesinger	2013	K. Elaine Neely	2013
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**MOBILE HOME RENT CONTROL BOARD**

Jack Nogueira, Chair	2013	John Luczynski	2013
David Levine	2014	Cheryl Shanks	2014

**MT. GREYLOCK ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Cosmo Catalano, State Appointed	Scott Lewis	2011
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**MUNICIPAL SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE**

Martha Dailey	2012	Robert Kavanaugh	2013
Cheryl Yarter	2014	Jeanne DiLisio	2014

**NORTHERN BERKSHIRE SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT**

Scott Park	2012
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**REGISTRARS OF VOTERS**

Mary C. Kennedy (D), Town Clerk	Philip Cantelon (R)	2012
Robert A. Jones (R)	Mark Windover (D)	2014

**SIGN COMMISSION**

Curtis Scott, Chair	2015		
Tim Hamilton	2012	Judy Giamborino	2012
Vacant	2013	Anne Singleton	2016

**ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS**

Andrew Hoar, Chair	2012	David Levine	2013
John Holden	2014	Leigh Short	2015
Ryan Neathawk	2016		

**Alternate Members**

David Ranzer	2012	Lawrence Wright	2013
Arthur Lafave	2014		

**APPOINTED BY THE TOWN MANAGER****1753 HOUSE COMMITTEE**

Henry W. Art	Andrus Burr	David Loomis
Richard Babcock	Henry N. Flynt, Jr.	Lauren Stevens

**ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER AND INSPECTOR OF ANIMALS**

Jacqueline Lemieux

**BOARD OF ASSESSORS**

William J. Barkin, Chair                      David Westall                      Thomas Elder

**BERKSHIRE REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION**

Elizabeth McGowan, Appointed by Planning Board

Roger Bolton, Alternate    2012

**CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

Henry Art, Chair	2012	Sarah Gardner	2012
Thomas Ennis	2012	Van Ellet	2013
Richard Schlesinger	2014	Harold Brotzman	2014
Philip McKnight	2014		

**COUNCIL ON AGING**

Brian T. O’Grady, Director

Kathy Thompson, Chair	2012	Peter Mehlin	2012
Eugenia Smith	2012	Franz Burnet-Gocht	2013
Pamela Burger	2013	Anne Jones	2013
Clara Winslow	2014	Patricia Picard	2014

**EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

Peter L. Fohlin, Director

**FOREST WARDEN**

Richard Daniels

**FORESTRY/ PEST CONTROL SUPERINTENDENT/TREE WARDEN**

Robert E. McCarthy, Jr.

**HEALTH INSPECTOR**

Jeffrey C. Kennedy

**BOARD OF HEALTH**

Alfred Wise MD, Chair	2014	Ronald Stant	2012
Ruth Richardson	2012	Ruth Harrison	2013
Marcia Tessier	2014		

**HISTORICAL COMMISSION**

Bill Barkin, Chair	2014	Cheryl Shanks	2012
Scott Wong	2012	Barbara McLucas	2013
Linda Conway	2014		

**POLICE DEPARTMENT**

Kyle Johnson, Chief  
Paul Thompson, Sergeant

Scott McGowan, Sergeant  
David Lemieux, Sergeant

**POLICE OFFICERS**

John J. McConnell, Jr.  
Shuan William  
Tania Hernandez  
Craig Eichhammer

Preston Kelly  
Scott Skorupski  
Michael Ziemba  
Kevin Garner

**SPECIAL POLICE OFFICER**

David Sherman  
Kyle Jolin

Joseph Ross

**POLICE DISPATCHERS**

Gary Thompson  
Paul Oleskiewicz  
David Sherman  
Kyle Jolin  
Scott Sherman

Bill Jennings  
Elizabeth Haight  
Wayne Buckley  
Joseph Ross  
Colin Shepley

**SCHOOL CROSSING GUARDS**

Patricia Fix  
Rosella Cote

William Cote

## **REPORTS OF THE COMMITTEES, COMMISSIONS AND BOARDS:**

### **1753 HOUSE COMMITTEE**

#### **Henry Flynt**

For all of 2011 the 1753 House on Field Park was kept closed due to the possibly dangerous crack in the stonework on the chimney. But there was important visible activity. The Annual Town Meeting approved a \$20,850 grant proposed by the Community Preservation Act Committee for repairs. Architectural specifications were prepared for necessary public bidding, but Hurricane Irene in August put a stop to any further action. This project will be reactivated in early 2012. Other “invisible activity” during the year was that both windows (really shutters) were occasionally forced open by unknown people, probably at night. No evidence of entry gained was found. Chalk it up to strong curiosity. Committee member Carol Thomas submitted her resignation on August 1, having served most energetically since 1998. To date, no one has been nominated to replace her. During the summer three members of the Committee met with the Town Manager to discuss the present and future status of the 1753 House Committee.

### **AFFORDABLE HOUSING COMMITTEE**

#### **Cathy Yamamoto, Chair**

The year began well, with the Committee’s maiden project, Church Corner, being fully rented soon after a lottery was held for the eight apartments. The apartments (two 1-bedroom, four 2-bedroom, and two 3-bedroom) at the corner of Cole Avenue and Church Street, in the former St. Raphael Church and its neighboring rectory, were subsidized by Town Community Preservation Act funds and are rent controlled, with rents set according to HUD guidelines. Occupancy is limited to those earning less than 80% of median income.

On August 28, our housing landscape was forever changed when Tropical Storm Irene swept through town. All residents of The Spruces Mobile Home Park were evacuated due to severe flooding and properties on Simonds Road, in particular the DeMayo Farm, suffered flood damage. Of the 225 homes in The Spruces, approximately 64 were repaired and reoccupied but remain in the flood plain. More than 150 were damaged beyond repair and have been or will be demolished. The loss of these homes put pressure on the area’s rental market and waiting lists of 100% are the norm at area subsidized housing.

Williamstown faces the challenge of creating affordable homes for those who wish to live here: displaced residents who wish to return, singles and families of low or moderate incomes, and seniors on fixed incomes. If Williamstown is to be a community that possesses the vitality that this diversity brings, then it must rise to this challenge, a challenge that will not be easily or quickly met.

State legislation passed in 1969, commonly known as Chapter 40B, was designed to encourage the development of affordable housing. The statute provides for eased zoning and permitting requirements as incentives to developers. For a municipality to be exempt from 40B, its Subsidized Housing Inventory (SHI) must be at least 10% of its existing households. Our SHI currently includes the following 139 homes:

<u>Name/Location/Number of Units</u>	<u>Property Manager</u>
Meadowvale (Adams Road) 30 units of elderly/handicapped housing	Williamstown Housing Authority
Group Home at 45 Adams Road 8 units of housing for people with special needs	Williamstown Housing Authority
Residences on Stetson Road/Cole Avenue 8 units of non-elderly housing	Williamstown Housing Authority
Proprietors Fields (Church Street). 60 units of elderly/handicapped housing	Berkshire Housing Corp.
Spring Meadow (North Hoosac Road) 22 units of non-elderly housing	Scarafoni Associates
Church Corner (Cole Avenue) 8 units of non-elderly housing	Scarafoni Associates
Habitat for Humanity Homes (Hall Street, Henderson Road, Main Street)	Owner-occupied

Additional subsidies are available through the use of 97 federal housing vouchers (of which only 86 are currently funded) and 7 state housing vouchers administered by the Housing Authority. With fewer than 2,700 household in town, our SHI currently stands at approximately 5%.

The Affordable Housing Committee is actively reviewing town-owned and privately owned properties and will seek funding to construct additional subsidized housing. Plans are underway to add homes at Proprietors Fields and Spring Meadow. Twelve units of affordable housing are included in the proposed development of Cable Mill on Water Street.

Much more is needed. With federal and state funding severely limited or unavailable, funds generated by the Community Preservation Act have become critically important. There is also the potential for private citizens, the business community, and faith-based and other charitable organizations to play a role. Without sustained growth in the US economy, broad-based support from all sectors will be needed if we are to increase economic and age diversity in Williamstown.

## **ASSESSORS**

### **William Barkin**

Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 59 specifically equates that fair cash value be the standard by which property is taxed. A comprehensive appraisal system, as well as constant monitoring of real estate market fluctuations is needed in order for the Board of Assessors to meet this statutory requirement.

2011 was the Town's triennial certification year for all real and personal property as mandated by the State. The completed reappraisal confirmed that the total taxable valuation of the Town decreased 4.31% from last year's value of \$1,076,846,256 to \$1,030,348,700. The decrease by property class is as follows: the commercial/industrial class dropped 13.38%, the residential class dropped 3.17% and the personal property class dropped 7.11%. The average single-family home value decreased 2.9% from \$387,500 on January 1, 2010 to \$376,300 on January 1, 2011.

Real estate market value in Williamstown is created by the buyers and sellers who negotiate price. Statistical analysis of sales is performed to ascertain the weight or influence each existing property characteristic may contribute to market value. Those characteristics that continue to "drive" market value in Williamstown are: location, fireplaces, bathrooms, living area, condition and over all quality of construction (grade). By measuring these "components of value" against the sales sample, a dollar value can be assigned to nearly replicate the actual sales. From here a "pricing schedule" is developed and tested against the sales. When the schedule meets statistical standards within a tolerable range of the initial purchase price, that is, the new assessments generated fall within a range of about  $\pm 10\%$ , then the schedule is applied across the board to all residential properties. Fine tuning of the newly generated assessments is done by performing a field review of a representative sampling of the Town and making on site adjustments, specifically for location, topographical features, quality grade or condition where needed in order to preserve consistency and uniformity.

The assessments of commercial/industrial properties are based upon typical economic/market income streams and their respective expense/vacancy ratios for each particular kind or use of property, i.e. retail, office, restaurant, apartment, manufacturing and hotel/motel.

The Board of Assessors maintains a property inventory of approximately 3,000 real estate properties and 251 personal property accounts. We strive for 100% accuracy in our assessments. The abatement process allows the Board to view properties that may have errors on the property record card or exhibit market aberrations and thus produce inaccurate assessments. At the beginning of each year the Board conducts field inspections of all building permits issued in the prior calendar year to ascertain new growth.

# Williamstown Board of Assessors

## Computations for Determining Fiscal 2011 Tax Rate

<i>Town Meeting Date</i>	<i>Total Appropriations Each Meeting</i>	<i>From Tax Levy</i>	<i>From Free Cash</i>	<i>From Other Available Funds</i>	<i>From Enterprise Funds</i>	<i>(Memo) Borrowing</i>
5/18/2010	20,098,359	17,354,771	0.00	25,984.00	2,717,604	0.00
<b><i>Totals</i></b>	<b>20,098,359</b>	<b>17,354,771</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>25,984.00</b>	<b>2,717,604</b>	<b>0.00</b>

Local Expenditures.....	\$	20,050,726.00
Cherry Sheet Offsets & Other Amounts.....		629,278.97
Overlay.....		131,592.48
<b><i>Tax Rate Summary</i></b>		
1. Gross Amount to be Raised.....		20,811,597.45
2. Estimated Receipts and Available Funds.....		
3. Net Amount to be Raised by Taxation.....	\$	<b>20,811,597.45</b>
4. Real Property Valuation.....	\$1,057,653,985	
5. Personal Property Valuation.....	\$ 19,192,271	
6. Total Property Valuation.....	<b>\$1,076,846,256</b>	
7. Tax Rate	12.70	
8. Real Property Tax.....		13,432,205.61
9. Personal Property Tax.....		243,741.84
10. Total Taxes Levied on Property.....	\$	<b>13,675,947.45</b>

<b>Recap Abatements and Exemptions</b>			<b>Recap Motor Vehicle Commitments</b>			
<b><i>Fiscal 2011</i></b>						
Real Estate	\$	92,377.26	<b><i>Commitments</i></b>	<i>Year</i>	<i>Valuation</i>	<i>Excise</i>
Personal Property		0.00		1 2011	\$18,525,800	\$463,707
				2 2011	\$2,673,300	\$64,348
				3 2011	\$1,466,700	\$28,601
				4 & 5 2011	\$3,469,000	\$45,734
<b><i>Exemptions</i></b>			<b><i>Abatements</i></b>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Excise</i>	
Clause 41C	\$	6,500.00				
Clause 22, 22E		19,400.00				
Clause 17D		2,975.00				
Clause 37		2,187.50				
Clause 42		1,667.51	<b><i>Totals</i></b>			
Clause 18		900.00				
Total.....	\$	<b>126,007.27</b>				

FOR A DETAILED REPORT SEE TREASURER'S SUMMARY



## **CABLE TELEVISION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**Anne Skinner, Chair**

Starting in late 2010 the CAC conducted a series of meetings with John Mucha of Time Warner Cable, (TWC). TWC was also represented by their attorney, John Fogarty. By December of 2011 the CAC and TWC agreed on a contract with the assistance of Town Counsel, Bill Hewig, and Town Manager, Peter Fohlin. The principal features of the contract include its 10-year term, and that over the course of the contract, the franchise fee paid to WillNet will gradually increase to 5%, the maximum allowed by law. The CAC notes that all other TWC customers in Berkshire County are already paying 5%. In addition, TWC will provide WillNet with \$70,000 in capital funds, and will arrange for new locations from which live broadcasting can be made. The new origination sites include the John Allen Field at MGRHS. By statute the contract cannot cover programming, cable service rates or non-cable related products and services offered by TWC. The contract was then presented to the Board of Selectmen, who signed it at their January 9<sup>th</sup> meeting. At present it has not been signed by TWC, and the Town is awaiting approval by the chief financial officer of the company. We are, however, hopeful that this final step will take place shortly.

## **CEMETERIES AND PARKS**

**Christopher Lemoine, Superintendant**

The most notable improvement this year would be the completion of the phase one road paving within Eastlawn Cemetery. The project involved the shimming and overlaying of 70% of the roads. All work was performed in house by the Town Highway Department. Special thanks to Highway Department employees Craig Clough, Robert Orell, and Joe Tatro.

Within Westlawn Cemetery the department removed eight large decaying trees that were posing a risk of damaging historical monuments. Also within Westlawn a stone wall was cleaned and pointed.



We installed a Big Belly Recycling Receptacle and Solar-powered Trash Compactor on Spring Street in May. The Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources awarded the free unit to the town in recognition of Williamstown's Green Communities status.

The Stetson Road skateboard park structures were resurfaced by Ken McAlpine in October at a material cost of \$1758.

A new 2011 Ford F 150 V6 4x4 pickup was purchased to replace a 2001 Chevy 1500 V8 4x4 pickup at a purchase price of \$19,860 with a trade allowance of \$3404 for a net cost of \$16,456. The fuel efficiency for the new truck has improved by 22%.

## COMMUNITY PRESERVATION ACT COMMITTEE

Philip R. McKnight, Chairman



The Community Preservation Act (CPA), adopted by the Town in 2002, permits Williamstown to address important community needs under the terms of the law, including:

- Acquisition, preservation, rehabilitation, and restoration of historic resources;
- Acquisition, creation, and preservation of open space;
- Creation, preservation, and support of affordable housing; and
- Acquisition of land for recreation and preservation of recreational resources.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts has typically matched dollar-for-dollar the funds Williamstown raises directly through the CPA surcharge on real property taxes. This year the match was reduced from previous years' 100% to 26%. The local Community Preservation Committee makes a recommendation to Town Meeting every year on how CPA revenues should be spent. The Committee's eight members consist of representatives from the Town's Conservation Commission, Finance Committee, Historical Commission, Housing Authority, Planning Board, Parks Commission, Town Manager, and an at-large community member.

The Committee held public information sessions and public meetings beginning in the fall in which applications were received and funding proposals were discussed. Ultimately, the following proposals were recommended for funding by Town Meeting in May 2011 and were approved:

1. An amount of \$13,480 under the terms of the CPA to be expended under the direction of the Parks and Cemetery Superintendent with the assistance of the South Williamstown Historical Commission for the preservation of historic gravestones at Southlawn Cemetery;
2. An amount of \$20,850 under the CPA to be expended under the direction of the Parks and Cemetery Superintendent for the preservation of the 1753 House located at Field Park;

3. An amount of \$223,200 under the terms of the CPA and an amount of \$26,800 as a transfer and an appropriation from funds previously reserved for historic resources to fund a grant to Williamstown Community Preschool, Inc., for the preservation of the former Williamstown United Methodist Church located at 777 Main Street, as shown on Assessors Parcel 130-117, and to authorize the Board of Selectmen and the Williamstown Historical Commission to enter into a grant agreement with Williamstown Community Preschool, Inc. outlining the purposes for and the conditions upon which these funds may be expended, and to authorize the Board of Selectmen or its designees to accept one or more deed restrictions on said property meeting the requirements of G. L. c. 184 § 3;

4. An amount of \$10,000 under the terms of the CPA for the payment of administrative expenses associated with the work of the Committee in FY2012.

5. An amount of \$26,200 under the terms of the CPA for future open space purposes in FY2012.

6. An amount of \$26,200 under the terms of the CPA for future community housing purposes in FY2012.

In any given year the Committee anticipates receiving more worthwhile projects for consideration than can be responsibly funded. In addition, the Committee may choose to set aside certain amounts of available funds for future projects. Because of this, and to help guide its deliberations, the Committee has established a number of project investment criteria, which applicants must address, and encourages interested parties to read about the CPA and the investment criteria on the Town's website.

## **CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

**Henry W. Art, Chairman**

The Conservation Commission is the citizen board responsible for the management of Town owned conservation lands and for the administration of the Massachusetts Wetlands and Rivers Protection Act. Meetings are held on the second and fourth Thursdays of each month at 7:00 p.m. Sites visits are often conducted prior to the public hearings so that the Commission members can better understand what is being proposed by the applicants, what specific wetland resources are in need of protection and how best to provide the protection.

In 2011 the Commission acted on 10 Requests for Determination of Applicability (**RDA**) of the Wetlands Act to proposed projects. We also acted on 3 Notice of Intent (**NoI**) applications for projects that clearly came under the jurisdiction of the Wetlands & Rivers Protection Acts and place Orders of Condition as to how the projects would be undertaken and managed to ensure the protection of wetlands resources. We issued no Certificates of Compliance (a record of the fulfillment of the Orders of Condition), and issued no Enforcement Orders (in response to violations of the acts). However, we did approve a plan to respond to enforcement orders for completion of work dating back to 2008 at the Colonial Shopping Center.

An Emergency Certification was issued for the 29 June 2011 tractor-trailer crash into Sweet Brook at the intersection of US Route 7 and MA Route 2. The Conservation Commission worked with the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, a local engineering firm, and abutting land owners to design and implement a restoration plan for the site. While the Hurricane / Tropical Storm Irene (28 August 2011) impacts not as severe in Williamstown as they were in Southern and Central Vermont, major local impact was evident at The Spruces mobile home park and Cole Field in the Hoosic River floodplain. In response to Tropical Storm Irene 8 projects were granted permissions under the "Special Notice Only" regulations immediately following the storm and 4 Emergency Certifications were issued for later work.

Town Meeting has placed 9 Town properties in the care and custody of the Commission. During the year, we examined the Hunter property, the Stone Hill property, and Margaret Lindley Park to determine what might need to be done to enhance their value to the Town. Improving the trail systems and repairing access bridges are the highest priorities and will be addressed in the coming years.

During the summer of 2011 Bob Muir resigned from the Commission and was replaced by Van Ellet. Current members of the Conservation Commission are Hank Art (Chair), Harold Brotzman, Tom Ennis (Vice Chair), Sarah Gardner, Philip McKnight, Van Ellet and Richard Schlesinger. During 2011 the Williamstown Department of Inspection Services was reorganized with Jeff Kennedy turning over duties as Town Conservation Agent to Andrew Groff. We would again like to thank Jeff Kennedy, Andrew Groff, and Kathy Thompson of the Department of Inspection Services for their dedicated service to the Conservation Commission.

*Richard Schlesinger contributed to the writing of this report.*

## **COUNCIL ON AGING**

**Brian T. O'Grady, Director**

If we were to characterize 2011 for the Council on Aging, we'd have to say that it was a period of successful perseverance. We found out how really good we were in the face of adversity. What exactly does this mean? Well...

In December 2010, outreach worker Kim Bissaillon left the COA to accept another position in North Adams. To say that her loss left a huge hole at the Harper Center would be an understatement. This position was not filled until July 2011. The COA is made up of a very small staff; three full time employees, director, outreach, van operator, part time secretarial and two occasional back up van drivers, along with many fine volunteers. Despite this small number of staff, we manage to serve an increasing number of people on an annual basis. The loss of the outreach position for an extended period of time became even more apparent when the normal staff to client ratio [it's 2000 to 3.5] is considered. Four regular staff members, two thousand Williamstown seniors, all potential COA clients [we actually provided a service to over 900 different people last year] but for half of 2011 it was 2000 to 2.5 with the van driver by description NOT regularly in the building to help. How about 2000 to 1.5?

As a temporary solution, Kathy Poirot, Administrative Assistant to the Town Manager, became a person with three official town job titles. As Administrative Assistant to the Town Manager, Assistant Town Clerk and interim COA Outreach Worker, Kathy wore three hats as ably as she could. Arriving at the Harper in late January Kathy made valiant efforts to reach out to Williamstown elders on behalf of the COA, but the pull of these three positions became an impossible task, and despite her best efforts it didn't work.

This absence of a full time outreach worker at the COA impacted the COA outreach effort, the absence of "another body", or staff member, in the building placed serious stresses on the day to day function of programs within the Harper Center itself. This seven month period stretched the volunteer corps to its limits. Program creativity suffered as the Director and remaining staff members could not always spend time developing in house programming. Without an outreach worker, the Director responded to many more people problems than usual, some big, some little, and some truly massive. It was an extremely stressful period of time.

On July 18, Marion Quinn-Jowett assumed the role of Outreach Worker at the Harper Center filling a most needed and important role at the Williamstown COA, assuming a staffing void that had proven to be problematic at the Harper Center.

Adding insult to injury, van Operator Kathy Vareschi, became lost to the COA for the better part of a year after being injured in the line of duty. This is when it became necessary for back up van drivers, David Larabee and Alan Horbal to rise to the occasion and ably fill Kathy's shoes.

Because of this good support none of our COA clients went without services. Various and often complicated people problems were solved. Sometimes issues were resolved a bit slower than usual, but all seniors with a need received sincere efforts by the COA on their behalf. Programming at Harper continued; guest speakers were engaged, actors acted, singers sang, and some pretty good food came out of our kitchen for all to enjoy. Despite some hard times, we pulled together and did very well.

So, where to begin this tale... Every annual report is different and yet they all seem to sound the same. As we began this conversation talking about outreach, we'll begin there. So here we go; Marion has only been a staff member at the COA for 5 months and during that time she has made daily contact with Williamstown seniors and responded to an average of 100 problems monthly. Typical outreach responses have included:

- Housing issues including those following in the wake of TS Irene
- Food security issues
- Fuel assistance
- Transportation issues
- Other elder problems requiring assistance with completing forms, etc.

Additionally, Marion has carried the COA flag into the community, to individual homes and to allied institutions including allied social service agencies, health systems, housing clusters

and ...As the Outreach Program has begun again rolling at full steam, we have met people who never came to events at Harper before-just the results we have intended!

### PROGRAMS

Health oriented programming is an integral part of what we do at the Harper C. A three day weekly exercise class which, in addition to keeping joints lubricated and people limber, has a heavy emphasis on osteo prevention and muscle building. Our new exercise coordinator, Jane Jezouit, arrived in June replacing Ashley Duquette who had moved to Boston in May. Tai Chi, an exercise long practiced as a fighting form by Chinese monks has been proven in major university studies to improve balance significantly, thus reducing fall risks, a major cause of injury and un-necessary institutional placement among seniors. Tai Chi has proven to be so popular during the years that we initiated an introductory class in January. Both classes are facilitated by Youlin Shi.

Walking is one of the most elemental of exercise forms and can be fun as well. In the past, senior walkers from the Harper Center have won Northern Berkshire community walking competitions. We formed a formal new walking group in August covering pre-measured routes in the neighborhood. They tell us that walking 4 miles a week enhances the oxygen flow to your brain, a good thing! Some of us do 4 miles a day, some people walk at least one, while others walk 4 miles weekly. It's good for you and we're getting a jump on future competitors! Stay tuned for future updates.

Swimming is another healthy activity and thanks to our friends in the athletic department at Williams, town seniors are able to use an Olympic Class swimming pool to do laps or crawls or whatever activity pleases several days weekly. The dates and times are posted. Ask us, we'll be happy to tell you about it!

Bridge- a brain game happens every Wednesday afternoon without fail. I have spoken with people who have told me that they learned to play bridge just to keep their minds sharp. The game requires concentration, retention and strategy. The Wednesday Harper game is 20 years old. Genie Smith is our bridge coordinator-ask her if you're interested in playing.

Blood Pressure clinics are offered monthly on the second Tuesday at noon and are sponsored by Interim Health Care.

Flu Shots have become an annually scheduled event, sometimes twice annually, an extraordinary gift from our colleagues at the VNA and Hospice of Northern Berkshire.

Foot care clinics are held monthly on the third Tuesday at 9:00. Serena Merrill, our foot care specialist will trim those toe nails and massage those aching feet for you. Appointments are needed, these slots fill fast and she's usually booked a couple months in advance.

In conjunction with the REACH program at NARH, we offered 2 separate cholesterol screenings. Important stuff!

### FOOD and NUTRITION

We are what we eat and a long time ago we discovered that food will bring people out for programs better than almost anything else. We wanted our food products to be heart healthy,

nutritious, and fun. We put a lot of effort in providing a good variety of food, and we think we're pretty successful in helping people stay healthy with the food we serve. In 2011, in conjunction with Elder Services of Berkshire County, delivery in or as an in house production, we served several thousand meals. That's a lot of food! Most importantly, it gets everyone one square meal a day and brings people together for fellowship. Almost all of the food we provide is nutritionally balanced-OK, with an occasional sinful treat meals aside- we try very hard to meet basic nutritional standards. Pat Picard, our nutrition program coordinator, leads a talented crew of volunteers including Renate Schafer, Bob Buhner, Kay Orchard, Anne Jones, Claire Bedard, Marie Gagne, Mike Sotor, Rodney Davidson and Barbara Park. Thank you all!

In 2011 we continued our sponsorship of the Brown Bag program of the Foodbank of Western Massachusetts. Brown bag is a supply of shelf stable foods, as well as a selection in season fruits and veggies literally delivered to our participants monthly in a brown paper sack by COA staff and volunteer Bill Keyes. In 2011 the actual number of participants in this monthly program grew for the third year in a row.

Nutritionist in the House is not actually the name of the program but it fits quite nicely here eh? In the spring of 2011, we were successful in applying for Federal Title 3 funding through Elder Services to offer individuals who are, shall we say "nutritionally misinformed", an opportunity to meet with an actual RD from NARH "in your own home" to talk about eating and food selection and good versus bad food. Let's face it-food sustains us and really, good food choices are major step towards good health.

Speaking of good food choices, we teamed with Elder Services, REACH, Northern Berkshire Health care, Interim Health care and Home Instead Senior Care to offer numerous lectures designed to offer advice and seven especially designed to talk about food selection, proper nutrition and meal preparation during the year. More will follow in 2012!

Grocery shopping for home bound or mobility limited elders continues to be an option for town seniors. Our friends at Stop and Shop have been very helpful through the years with this effort. Delivery orders are delivered to each elder's home by the COA van or a volunteer each Wednesday afternoon.

#### *An Information Store...*

Our first contact with many of our new friends is a phone call for our most basic component; Information and referral. The need for this service grows in complexity annually. The COA is not a major home care corporation with battalions of workers, nurses and laborers who will go out and clean your home, yourself and your dog. But we do know where these battalions are kept and an entire host of other services too. We have become a major source for this type of information and typically field numerous requests specific to needed information daily. Some calls are simple, such as inquiries about transportation or lunch, some very complex such a queries about health insurance or counseling. Most requests are traditional telephone calls, but we're seeing an increasing number of email questions. Emails come from family and friends of Williamstown seniors from all over. In 2011, the award for the furthest distance inquiry goes to a couple in Palo Alto California. One of the dominant requests for information most often centers on transportation and our big van.

### THE VAN

Really is one of the most visible of all town services. It's big, it has our name on the side in BIG letters and it goes all over Northern Berkshire County. A big white rolling billboard for aging services in Williamstown! As the years pass, the number of individuals who surrender their licenses and this makes for a large increase in dependence on public transportation options. This pattern has become apparent in Williamstown, and we have met many new friends through the van program. Our van regularly travels to medical appointments and treatments, and makes many weekly grocery trips. The van also facilitates a range of personal type errands such as banking, library trips, beauty shops and also brings a couple individuals to work. It has opened new doors for those who don't have access to a vehicle and frequently has served as a vehicle for questions regarding other services available as well. A dual purpose operation indeed! Our primary van operator, Kathy Vareschi, has indicated that she given rides to over 250 different people last year-all people without access to another means of transport. Tell us-where would you be without a ride when you needed one?

David Larabee and Alan Horbal are Kathy's very able back up operators and served the COA well as she recovered from her injury peacefully at home. Thanks guys!

### Other important necessities...

We maintain an emergency evacuation list for individuals who would need actual hands on physical assistance to leave their home in the event of an emergency. The idea was originally devised to offset the effects of phantom Y2K disasters and it grew into a simple list of potential emergency response. It's a totally voluntary, self subscribing, absolutely confidential list which we have now actually utilized twice, most recently on the morning of August 28<sup>th</sup>, at the Spruces during the flooding pursuant to Tropical Storm Irene. On the afternoon prior, COA personnel met with Spruces representatives to review our combined lists and decide on a course of action for evacuation for specific individuals needing help. The following morning, just prior to flooding and full scale evacuations of the park, Dave Larabee and Brian O'Grady drove about in the COA van removing identified individuals to the safety of the evacuation center at the Williamstown Elementary School. The list did its job, and has clearly proven its worth. It will be updated again in early 2012.[ Note: The van continued to operate throughout the day, transporting elders from the shelter to other locations while other COA personnel helped to remove residents in the flooding Spruces].

### S.H.I.N.E

Serving Health Information Needs of Elders is a program designed to assist individuals over 60 navigate the complexities of the health care system. There have been an increasing number of calls for this program during the year and [need a number] seniors we assisted during the year. Our primary SHINE Counselor, Peg Jenks is present in the Harper Center every third Wednesday at 10:30 to talk with individuals who need assistance sorting their coverage out-she's also available for consultation by appointment-call the COA office for information. Margie Ware and Ida Patella have also helped as SHINE counselors in Williamstown in 2011 and we thank them all!

What are the two things you are supposed to be able to rely on in life? Yeah, we have one of those under control. Every year, from early February into mid April, Pim Goodbody and his



band of certified AARP Tax Aides assist individuals to complete and file their state and federal income taxes. As with all of our programs, this one has grown significantly in recent years and we'll likely be adding additional counselors in 2012 to cover the need.

The COA also offers individual and group computer lessons. Our computer instructor, Elaine Keyes, will devise a course of study geared to each person's abilities. Computers are really a force in life now and as we go along, the internet becomes more prevalent in our lives for everything from our daily news to contacting the grandchildren. We have a fully operational computer lab right in the building and it's free for seniors to use during the week...

Don't forget our daily Telephone Reassurance Program- a daily wellness check via telephone call to individuals who need a bit of comfort knowing that someone will check upon you every day. We believe that this simple call in the morning has saved lives-on 10 occasions since we initiated the program in 2000 we were unable to reach an individual on our call list, checked on the elder personally and found that each had fallen and was severely injured requiring treatment and nursing home rehabilitation. What would have happened if we were not here?

We're also a source for the "File of Life", a listing of pertinent medical conditions and medications which each individual records on a specialized form, puts in the accompanying magnetized envelope and attaches to the refrigerator. In the event of an emergency, responding medical personnel will find it and be able to relay the information to doctors and others. As an added bonus, this year we devised a "Pet file of life" which lets emergency responders know that while they're rescuing an elder, there may also be a scared pet hiding somewhere in the home.

### *What else?*

We sponsored successful and informative luncheon forums on topics as diverse as eyesight, hearing, body imaging, blood pressure, falls prevention, stroke prevention and recovery, women's health issues, insurance forums...

Jim Sisto came and talked about durable power of attorney. Bertha Lawrence taught an AARP safe driver course. Michele Ellicks from Mass DMV presented on drivers with dementia and getting them off the road.

We offered weekly oil painting classes, watercolor instruction seminars and knit lap robes. We even hosted an "Antique Roads Show" with Meg Greenawalt from Sweetbrook which was very successful and wonderful fun.

We collected articles of clothing, food and household items for the Spruces relief and recovery effort. We collected articles for the Military Families organization during "Operation Troop Support". We collected funds to help the building fund for the new Williamstown Youth Center and our Friendship Club created crafts such as "Pedibears" for the NARH, lap robes for nursing home residents, helmet liners for US troops stationed abroad and collected for local food pantries.

We hosted second graders from Pine Cobble and the WES, who, along with their buddies, formed second grade reading buddies groups. We have shared books and fun with second grade classes since 2000!

We did lots and had fun doing it.

And tell me, where else can you check your email and get a hot meal?

And yes, we played Bingo almost every Friday. Thanks to Maggie Guiden, our bingo coordinator for organizing the games and recruiting those volunteer callers every week!

We cannot allow an annual report to pass without thanking Ann Luczynski, our most able Administrative Assistant, for now 24 years of great service to Williamstown seniors!

Finally, this report is dedicated to three volunteers who retired at the end of 2011; Loretta Smith, Tess Madden and Gert Fields. We thank you so much for all you've done to help out here at Harper during the preceding years and while we'll still see you as participants in our daily rounds, it won't be the same without you helping out...for awhile. Trust me, we'll think of something else for you to do sooner or later!

## **DAVID & JOYCE MILNE PUBLIC LIBRARY**

**Pat McLeod, Library Director**

[www.milnelibrary.org](http://www.milnelibrary.org)

**5,980 cardholders**

**78,000 holdings**

**33,352 interlibrary loans**

**199,500 circulations**

### ***"Your Place, Your Library"***

The Milne Public Library is your place to learn, grow, create, and connect to the many wonderful possibilities the library offers. Here you can meet your friends and neighbors, learn a new computer skill, find a new DVD or book, get homework help, enjoy a variety of programs, use our free Wi-Fi or volunteer for a number of different jobs. It's your place, and we want you to be here!

For those of you that have not visited your Town Library, you are invited for a free card that gives you access to collections throughout the Commonwealth.

The 2011 year was one of great strides forward, as well as challenges. At the beginning of the year, the Milne Library applied for a State construction grant for a renovation and two small additions, the Trustees realized that the funding for the entire construction project was beyond town fundraising capabilities and the application was withdrawn. The library continues to review and plan future growth of the library for this community and is revisiting what can be done to repair, remodel, and expand our aging infrastructure to meet the needs of a new generation of users.

The Milne Public Library continued to be a destination place for many in our community. Over the past year, almost 77,000 people visited our library; website usage saw 38,802 visits which increase monthly, and a quarter of our cyber visitors are new to accessing the website. Residents continued to cherish and use their public library, acknowledging the important role that libraries play as anchors in their communities and places where exciting things are happening. If you add up all of the circulations, museum pass usage, computer time, meeting room use, program attendance, and any statistic related to library use and apply it to the

Library Use Calculator developed by the Massachusetts Library Association, this gives a Return on Investment average of how much the services the library provides you and would cost if you had to pay for them directly. For the Milne Library it is just over \$4 million for almost 6,000 cardholders.

We continue to meet technology changes, the library has adapted and adopted all the new formats for reading listening and viewing movies and TV shows. All available from our website [www.milnelibrary.org](http://www.milnelibrary.org) - you can access:

- E-books
- Digital audiobooks
- Online language learning with over 80 languages and ESL called byki
- Over 500 online courses (Universal Class)
- Downloadable videos
- Children's books, read-alongs, games and puzzles all online called Tumblebooks
- Online full text journal articles and newspapers

Most all of these are available for your PC, laptop, e-reader, tablet, or cell phone.

Our own Patt Patterson won Town Employee of the Year. Patt works afternoons and every 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday and is known for her cakes she bakes on her Saturdays and shares with the public. Patt is an incredible connoisseur of audiobooks and can help you find any book you are looking for.

### *Friends of the Milne Public Library*

The Friends is an invaluable membership organization of volunteers which funds diverse Children and Youth programming, including the annual Summer Reading Program; furniture, equipment, and technology needs; staff training and professional development opportunities; and print and media acquisitions for the adult, young adult, and children's collections.

This year's publication of Cooking with Friends, a collection of family and local author recipes, is for sale at the library. The Friends' 2011 Book Sale, Auction, and Café, one of the largest in the Northeast, raised over \$23,000 to benefit the Library. In June 2011, the Friends realized a longtime dream and converted a closet into "The Book Nook," satisfying year-round book borrowers and becoming an ongoing source of income for the Friends.

Each November the Friends launch a membership drive for the following calendar year. In 2011, household memberships numbered 433, raising over \$12,000 in dues. On behalf of the Friends 14-member Board, President Ginny Sheldon encourages residents and library lovers to become members as well as volunteer for the book sale and special projects. Until it is completed, the Friends' developing website can be accessed through the library's site [www.milnelibrary.org](http://www.milnelibrary.org).

### The Library Board of Trustees

The Trustees increased its elected Board to 7 members this year and were focused on a building renovation and addition for the past year with edm architects. Their current challenge is to revisit immediate space needs for the public, staff and collections and go forward with a new plan to provide future space to continue to meet the needs of the community and embrace new technologies and emerging trends.

Current slate of the Board of Trustees is:

Marilyn Faulkner – Chair  
Peter Mehlin Treasurer  
Mark Maniak  
David Dewey

Rebecca Ohm – Secretary  
Nancy McIntire – Friends liaison  
Kathleen Schultze

### Children's Services

#### Mindy Hackner – Children's Librarian

Those bells you hear aren't tolling for the death of the book just yet. A close look at a few measures of usage in our children's room show a robust and healthy library department. From classic programs like story time to more rambunctious specials like Otha's drum circles and "Pirates Ho!", our total program attendance was over 2100 children. Circulation of library materials in the children's room is just over one-third of the library's total and greater than many small libraries in Berkshire County. All of this good news is thanks to the support of our director and trustees, the generosity of our "Friends", and the hard work and imagination of library staff. But, the real heroes are the children of Williamstown who come in large numbers to request a special book, tell the librarians about a new series or undiscovered author make suggestions for arranging or decorating the department, and tell their classmates about all the new stuff at the library.

This year we added "Tumblebooks" to keep up with the demand for e-books. With over 200 books, audio-books, games and puzzles for electronic devices, Tumblebooks now includes iPad-compatible and foreign language books. Children can also use the library's BYKI Language learning system and Kids Speak USBs to brush up on their language skills. For entertainment, we've retained many older videocassettes and greatly expanded our DVD collection. As for the old-fashioned library book, we are greatly heartened by a recent survey indicating that most parents still use the beloved "picture book" with its over-sized, hard covers and colorful artwork to encourage a love of reading. So we keep growing the book collection adding hundreds of titles each year.

In related news, the Fund for Williamstown through the Berkshire Taconic Foundation granted us a tidy sum to create our "family fun packs." These packs contain books, videos, instructions and tools for families to explore three different outdoor adventures; fishing, hiking, and the enormously popular sport of geocaching. The Friends of the Milne Library supported our summer reading program 'One World, Many Stories' by purchasing our posters, logs and prizes, bringing in guest travelers, funding our international tea and cookie parties, and bankrolling our special guests "Mister G" (Ben Gunderscheimer) and Rona

Leventhal. We need to forewarn the Friends, next year's theme is 'Dream Big' and we are hard at work dreaming about all that we can do at the library. Join us.



Library book group meets with local author Judith Weber to discuss her newest book “Forbidden Friendship”



Otha Day’s “Drum Songs “program was very popular program

Young Adult Services  
Helen Olshever

This year we managed to obtain some new shelving in the YA Room, so that we were finally able to consolidate our collection. Now that all of the YA materials are together, and shelf space is more extensive, it makes shelving much easier for our great volunteers. Our circulation improved this year, and we also had a number of very successful workshops for teens and ‘tweens. We ran two workshops in conjunction with WilliNet; an improvisation workshop facilitated by the Royal Berkshire Improv Troupe; a book-making workshop where kids created intriguing folding books; and a tremendously successful photography workshop called “Your Story, My Story” in conjunction with kids from the Bennington Free Library. We had a successful summer reading program with 35 participants who did a great deal of interesting and diverse reading, and won prizes for their efforts.

Our collection continues to grow, consistently adding excellent new literature written specifically for the teenage population. Both our fiction and non-fiction collections are not only popular in our library, but often go out to kids at other libraries through inter-library loan. We also have been slowly growing our audio book collection, and continue to serve the high school students during the summer, by making available multiple copies of their required summer reading books.

Upcoming in early 2012, we are planning a cartooning workshop for ‘tweens and teens, and we will continue to offer other workshops of interest to this age group throughout the year.



## WILLIAMSTOWN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

*Rose P. Ellis, Superintendent*

### **WILLIAMSTOWN-LANESBOROUGH SCHOOL UNION 71**

*Combined Student Enrollment: 662 Faculty/Staff: 115*



Words Are Wonderful Parade

School-year 2010-2011 marked the third successful year of the School Union 71 (SU 71) partnership between Williamstown Elementary School and the Lanesborough Elementary School and the historical inclusion of the Mt. Greylock Regional School District. These three separate Districts formed a combined Central Office by agreeing to share the administrative services of one Superintendent, one Business Manager, one Director of Pupil Personnel Services and a Curriculum Coordinator. Dr. Rose Ellis now serves as Superintendent for all three Districts. Having one administrative team for the three Districts expands opportunities to develop a consistent and coordinated curriculum PK-12, to share resources and personnel and to create cost savings in operating expenses.

This shared administrative team moved to Mt. Greylock in July 2010 and established the new **Tri-District Central Office at Mt. Greylock**. Ms. Kim Grady serves as the new Director of Pupil Personnel Services for all three District schools.

**SCHOOL ENROLLMENT and STAFFING 2010-2011****STUDENT ENROLLMENT**

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>PK</b>	<b>K</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Ratio 10-11</b>	<b>407</b>	1:11 33	1:16 47	1:16 48	1:15 58	1:18 54	1:21 62	1:18 55	1:17 50
<b>09-10</b>	<b>427</b>	1:11 35	1:15 45	1:19 56	1:19 56	1:20 60	1:19 58	1:16 49	1:22 68
<b>08-09</b>	<b>455</b>	33	57	61	59	59	54	65	67
<b>07-08</b>	<b>438</b>	31	58	49	51	53	66	66	64
<b>06-07</b>	<b>460</b>	34	49	52	46	74	71	66	68

**EDUCATION AND SUPPORT STAFFING**

<b>Grade-Level Teachers PK-6</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>Specialists (Music, Art, Library, PE, Nurse and Technology)</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Special Education Teachers and Professional Support Staff</b>	<b>7.6</b>
<b>Paraprofessionals</b>	<b>22.25</b>
<b>Custodians/Cafeteria Staff</b>	<b>6.75</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>67.6 Staff Members</b>

**PRINCIPAL ANNOUNCEMENT**

Principal Stephen Johnson retired in June 2011 after serving seven years in this leadership position at the Williamstown Elementary School. Mr. Johnson was a dedicated leader who can be credited with, among many things, establishing the school's aligned reading/literacy program and supporting the elementary school through the transition to Williamstown-Lanesborough School Union 71. The position of Principal was filled by Joelle Brookner on July 1, 2011. Ms. Brookner has been a part of the Williamstown Elementary School community since 1992 as a classroom teacher and a school-wide math coordinator. We welcome her to her new position.

**NEW WORLD LANGUAGE INTRODUCED: Mandarin**

After extensive research and planning, Williamstown Elementary made the commitment to offer a world language program beginning in the fall of 2011. School Committee members unanimously supported the Superintendent's recommendation to incorporate a world language program in MANDARIN CHINESE as part of the school day. This new program will offer instruction in grades pre-kindergarten through first grade in year one expanding to include a consecutive grade each year.





Mandarin Chinese Class

***WILLIAMSTOWN SCHOOL COMMITTEE***

School year 2010-2011 saw the addition of a new member to the Williamstown Elementary Committee. Jennifer Trainer Thompson joined the Committee as a newly elected member for a three-year term. Other members include Adam Filson, Chair, Margaret Mccomish, Vice-Chair, Valerie Hall and Huff Templeton. WES is fortunate to have such dedicated volunteers advocating for our students and school community.



Science Lesson on Beehives

## **FACILITIES**

### **Christopher Lemoine, Superintendent**

The Department has again utilized National Grids Energy Efficiency Program by updating the lighting at the Elementary School, the Department of Public Works, the David and Joyce Milne Library, the Harper Center, and Town Hall. The total program investment was \$61,220 with National Grid contributing 70 % at \$42,854 and the town contributing 30% at \$18,366. Annual energy savings are estimated at \$12,816 with a payback period of 17 months. The estimate also recognizes an annual reduction of greenhouse gases (CO2) by 126,591 pounds.

An unfortunate result of Hurricane Irene was the flooding of the basement at the Little Red Schoolhouse. This flood occurrence damaged both furnaces and the hot water heater to a degree requiring replacement. The replacement was performed by M+W Heating Inc. at a cost of \$13,017 with \$12,017 covered by insurance and \$1000 from FEMA to cover the Town's deductible resulting in no funds coming from the Towns operating budget.

Early in 2011 the DPW purchased two 100 KW surplus military generators through the Massachusetts State Agency for Surplus Property. The purchase price for the generators was \$1000 each. One generator has been permanently installed at the DPW and the other remains portable to be used where needed. The portable version had been used during Hurricane Irene providing power at the Williamstown Elementary School while being utilized as an emergency shelter. After this project proving to be successful the Town has purchased five 10KW generators through the same agency at a cost of \$250 each. Final decision on their placement has yet to be determined with options being the Harper Center, Library, water pump stations or portable. It is hoped not to ever need these but after witnessing the degree of power outages endured by our close neighbors during this years violent weather, we want to be prepared for any long term power outages.

Some notable maintenance to our facilities include the sandblasting and epoxy coating to the Town Hall fire escape, the installation of a variable frequency drive (soft starter) to the heating system circulation pump at the Library, the installation of a handicap automatic door opener at Town Hall and slate roof repair to the Town Hall and Sherman Memorial Chapel.

In early 2010, a photovoltaic system was installed at the Department of Public Works by Fall River Electrical Associates. The system came online as of January 21, 2010. The cost of the system totaled \$96,170, with \$49,011 coming from the Williamstown Clean Energy Choice Fund and the remainder appropriated. The production target was 18,000 KWH annually, with 18,100 produced in calendar year 2010. The installation resulted in a 27% reduction in the amount of electricity needed to be purchased for the Department of Public Works.

An age unknown rusting heating oil tank within the Sherman Memorial Chapel has been replaced with a code required double wall tank. Proper disposal and installation was performed by Miller Petroleum System's of Pittsfield at a total cost of \$2,563.

Notable accomplishments performed by Facilities Technician Kenneth McAlpine include repairing sections of the basement wall at the Municipal Building to alleviate water infiltration. Kenny also completed the task of refinishing the entire three floor staircase at the

rear of the Municipal building, a job that required a lot of patience and detail. During fair weather Kenny continues the multi-year project of painting the exterior of the David and Joyce Milne Public Library.

The Department staff continues its perpetual commitment of keeping the Town's public buildings safe, clean and efficient.



## **FINANCE COMMITTEE**

**Charles Fox, Chair, and Suzanne Dewey, Vice-Chair, for 2012**

During the calendar year 2011, the following members served on the Finance Committee: Paula Consolini, Suzanne Dewey, Charles Fox, Dan Gendron, Elizabeth Goodman, Doris Karamatsos, Paul Lovegreen, Thomas Murtagh, and Elaine Neely.

At the May 17, 2011 Annual Town Meeting the Finance Committee recommended a budget of \$20,933,006 for fiscal year 2012 (July 2011 – June 2012). The total Town budget for FY2012 compared with FY2011 increased \$623,924, or 3.07%. This is almost the same amount the budget decreased from FY2010 to FY2011. The budget also decreased in FY2009, so FY2012 is the first year of increase in three years. The Town budget increased 2.2% overall, while the Williamstown Elementary School's (WES) budget and Williamstown's appropriation for Mt. Greylock Regional High School remained flat. Town wages were increased 3% (2.7% in aggregate). But keep in mind that Town employees experienced a wage freeze in FY2010. The WES teacher and custodian collective bargaining agreements also provided for a 3% inflationary increase. Health insurance premiums climbed at 8.8% for the Town and WES.

The Williamstown appropriation for Mt. Greylock Regional High School's budget is required to remain proportional to the appropriation provided by Lanesboro to fulfill the dictates of the regional school arrangement. But enrollment percentages from the two communities fluctuate and have historically impacted the appropriation in dramatic ways. Therefore it was recommended that the two towns amend the regional school district agreement and create an averaging of enrollments so that each town would not experience such dramatic swings in the required student contribution. Both towns approved the adoption of the amended agreement at their town meetings. Additionally, because of the proportional assessment structure, and Lanesboro's inability to meet its spiking assessment, Williamstown reduced its assessment by \$82,862 in FY2010. A similar difficulty ensued for

Lanesboro in FY2011, but Williamstown voted for a budget increase of 4.25%, which then required that Lanesboro contribute a 10.85% increase over its FY2010 obligation. Thus, in the end Mt Greylock's total proposed budget was increased by 3.12%.

The Town also voted, by ballot, to approve two debt exclusion items for Mt. Greylock Regional High School. The debt exclusion for the remainder of the school roof repair would impact the tax rate through FY2014 adding \$.03. The exclusion voted in regard to the new boiler/locker rooms will impact the tax rate for the life of the bond (five years), with an estimated impact on the tax rate of \$.11 beginning in FY2012. The debt exclusions allow our community to assess taxes above the current levy limit, but the amount of the exclusion does not become a permanent part of the levy limit base.

Williamstown's required minimum assessment for McCann Vocational Tech declined again this year by 15,849 (- 6.22%).

The appropriation breakdown approved at the Town Meeting is as follows:

	<b>FY 2011</b>	<b>FY 2012</b>	<b>% change</b>
General Government	\$6,302,923	\$6,441,574	2.20%
Williamstown Elementary School	\$5,261,543	\$5,261,544	0.00%
Mt. Greylock High School	\$4,600,521	\$4,600,521	0.00%
McCann Technical School	\$239,084	\$366,466	53.28%
Sewer Department	\$1,127,931	\$1,086,834	-3.64%
Water Department	\$966,908	\$948,076	-1.95%
Transfer Station Department	\$205,565	\$207,010	0.70%
Capital Projects	\$540,113	\$631,248	16.87%
Debt Service	\$488,850	\$479,514	-1.91%
Community Preservation	\$152,900	\$293,730	92.11%
Reserve Fund	\$50,000	\$50,000	0.00%
Stabilization Fund	\$25,000	\$25,000	0.00%
Chamber of Commerce	\$24,292	\$33,492	37.87%
Youth Center	\$65,096	\$65,648	0.85%
Snow & Ice	\$59,056	\$217,377	268.09%
Interfund Transfers	\$199,300	\$224,972	12.88%
Total	\$20,309,082	\$20,933,006	3.07%

# FOREST WARDEN

**Richard F. Daniels, Jr.**

For the year of 2011, the Forest Wardens Department issued the towns burning permits from January 15 through May 1 and Agricultural permits year round weather permitting. Also, throughout the year, the Department investigated the town’s outdoor smoke problems. The department did daily fire checks, extinguishing illegal fires, and fought out of control fires. The department issued 217 burning permits and responded to 27 calls. There were 16 calls for fires and for illegal contents or no permits. There were 7 calls for complaints and smoke investigations and we had 2 rescues in town.

This spring was not as dry do to the heavy winter snow but the department kept busy monitoring the weather and the burning permits. Williamstown had 5 controlled fires that had to be extinguished and 1 out of control fire caused by a structure fire. The Williamstown Forest Wardens Department responded to 2 separate rescue calls on the Haley Trail for lost hikers. The hikers from the first call were walked out and the others were driven out by the 6x6 Ranger due to an ankle injury.

The department assisted the town during Hurricane Irene. On Sunday, August 28, we were on call for the duration of the Hurricane. Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday the department assisted the residence of the Spruces with man power, the brush truck and the 6x6 Ranger.

The Williamstown Forest Wardens attended Fire Prevention day at the Fire House in October. The department also attended the Memorial Day and the Fourth of July Parades. All members have trained regularly and have completed CPR/AED, and First Responder training for the year as required by the State. There are three members that belong to the Berkshire County Forest Wardens Association who meet once a month. 2 of our members are certified for the National Wildland Red Card Firefighter Type 2.

# FOREST WARDEN DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL

Forest Warden-	Richard F. Daniels Jr.
Deputy Wardens-	Stephen Fisk
	Michael Daniels, Military Leave
	Marcus Bottesi Jr.

# BOARD OF HEALTH

**Alfred J. Wise, MD, Chair**

**Membership:** Ruth Harrison, RN; Ruth Richardson, RN; Ronald Stant, LAT; Marcia Tessier, RN; Alfred Wise, MD.

**Licenses and Permits:** Please see Health Inspector Kennedy’s report for a tabular summary. The BOH approved a piggery operation at 582 Henderson Road not to exceed 50 pigs annually.

**Public Hearings and Enforcement Actions:** The BOH approved: a new application and permitting process for vendors at Farmer’s Markets; a standardized appeal procedure to apply to all BOH regulations in the Code of Williamstown; new reporting procedures for

Refuse and Recycling Haulers; a permit to Lickety Split to operate a food establishment after previously established regulations had been met; a flat fee of \$60 for a seasonal permit for a food establishment.

A hearing was held at the request of Morgan Management, the operator of the Spruces Manufactured Housing Community appealing an order to correct poor roadway repair. After discussion, the order to correct was withdrawn based on the owners and managers willingness and ability to do repairs.

**New Regulations or Actions:** Approved being a signatory to the BCBoHA Public Health Partnership planning grant application.

The Animal Inspector and Dog Officer duties have been transferred to the Department of Inspection Services.

The BOH recommended approval of the inter-municipal agreement of the Berkshire Public Health Alliance to the Williamstown Board of Selectmen.

**Tropical Storm Irene:** The Spruces MHC was flooded as a result of tropical storm Irene. The BOH was involved initially in sheltering residents at the local school; subsequently, along with local inspection services personnel and State DPH people, the huge project of dwelling inspection to determine safety for resumed habitation had to be undertaken. Several meetings with residents as well as formal hearings were held in respect to the clean up operations and appeals by some of the residents of the BOH determinations of safety of habitation.

As of this writing, of a total of 225 units, more than 50 have been reoccupied, 50 have been demolished or have had demolition permits issued and the fate of the remainder is still uncertain. It is unclear what the ultimate fate of the Spruces will be.

Dealing with the aftermath of this flood has required a huge effort, not only by health inspector Kennedy, but by all town officials, who I feel discharged their responsibilities in a highly professional manner and remained sensitive to the very great human burden that had resulted. The community owes them all a great vote of thanks.

## **HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT**

### **Scott Park, Superintendant**

2011 started out with three snow storms a week for the first two months which kept us pretty busy thought out the winter. The overall winter was one of the worse I've seen in my 40 year career with 105" of snow which was more than the year before by 48". Snow season started in November a month early than last year and ended in early March. The department was called out 39 times for slippery conditions which was the same as the year before. The total number of man hours for ice and snow removal was 2,026 which was 893 hours more than the previous year. We used 3,163 tons of salt, which was 1,987 tons more than the previous year and we used 5,767 tons of sand, which was 1,519 tons more than the year before. Overall it was a pretty tough winter and we use a lot of material and overtime to get thought it.

March is mud season and 2011 was not bad at all just like the year before; we did have a few roads that had problems which made for a rough couple of weeks for residents on those roads until we were able to get enough stone & gravel on them to make them passable again.

Every spring starts with spring clean up on the main roads around town; sweeping of every street, patching pot holes, cleaning ditches on our dirt roads, and rebuilding the catch basins that have been damaged by the frost which we had a lot of last year, then we move on to our regular maintenance.

Each year our maintenance work consists of grading dirt roads and applying gravel, roadside brush cutting, cleaning catch basins, un-plugging culvert pipes, replacing missing street signs, and cutting firewood for the DPW facility wood boiler. We also do roadside mowing, and paint crosswalks in addition have all the traffic lines painted in town and worked on weed control around our guardrails.

Our construction season last year was such a wet one that we did not get all the things we wanted to get done but we did get quite a few of them done. We paved most of the roads in Eastlawn Cemetery; we also paved Cummings Av and the Road next to the library. We shimmed with black top all the roads we were going to chip seal and did a stabilization project on Belden St to protect our storm drain system and a sewer trunk line. We repaired both head walls on the Torrey Woods Road culvert and had plans to start replacing sidewalks on Linden St, but had to be postponed to do to weather along with our chip sealing. Gale Rd was scheduled to be re-constructed, but again it was put off and till next year to do to weather.

Late August hurricane Irene hit us, then tropical storm Lee which flooded roads, took trees down, caused damage to roads, culvert pipes and the Spruce's Mobil Home Park. The DPW spent most September and part of October repairing the damage. FEMA will be reimbursing us 75% of the total cost for the damage.

Every year we assist the tree warden picking up trees that he has had taken down around town, also we had to pick up quite a few trees that came down during thunder storm over the summer & fall. And each year we assisted the Town Clerk in setting up voting booths and chairs at the elementary school for the town elections and town meeting.

In 2011 we replaced three pieces of equipment; a new 1-ton truck dump truck and two new single axle large dump trucks. Replacements of these pieces of equipment are essential to the DPW operation to be able to provide the level of service the tax payer expects.

## **HISTORICAL COMMISSION**

**William Barkin, Chair**

In 2011 the Historical Commission reviewed two requests for predetermination of a structure being preferably preserved under the Code of Williamstown Section 24-4.B, Demolition Delay Bylaw - those two properties being 25 Latham Street and 41 Spring Street. The board voted unanimously in both instances not to implement the bylaw, thus allowing the property owners to proceed with their respective demolitions without the ninety day postponement.

The commission also unanimously voted to support Community Preservation Historic Preservation warrant articles 26, 27 and 28 that subsequently passed at the annual town meeting on May 17, 2011.

## **HOOSAC WATER QUALITY DISTRICT**

**Bradley O. Furlon, Chief Operator/District Manager**

### District Commission

K. Elaine Neely, Chairman – Williamstown

John L. Moresi, D.D.S., Vice Chairman – North Adams

Charles Schlesinger, Secretary – Williamstown

Ronald Boucher, Member/Assistant Treasurer – North Adams

### Chief Operator – Assistant Chief Operator – Treasurer

Bradley O. Furlon, Chief Operator/District Manager

Mark J. DePonte, Assistant Chief Operator

John R. Gaffey, Treasurer

### Narrative

The Hoosac Water Quality District (District), which serves the Town of Williamstown and the City of North Adams, treated a total of 1,437,653,000 gallons of raw sewage during Fiscal Year 2011, which represents a decrease in flow of 124,190,000 gallons as compared to Fiscal Year 2010. In addition, the District treated 569,000 pounds of Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) and 890,771 pounds of Total Suspended Solids (TSS) in FY 2011.

Some key highlights of FY 11 were:

- In an effort to reduce process control problems throughout the plant, District personnel have been working with vendors and engineers to develop a pH adjustment system.
- In the Spring of 2011, District personnel completed sampling of influent and effluent associated with the renewing of their National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit.
- Also, in the Spring of 2011, the District extended their contract with Agresource, Inc. of Amesbury, MA for the marketing of the District's compost material.
- District personnel, which include six license wastewater operators, continue to work tirelessly to ensure that every requirement included in the Consent Decree and NPDES permit is fulfilled. Monthly reports are submitted to the District Commissioners, EPA and DEP, which outline all actions being taken to ensure complete compliance.
- Since 1983, the District's compost facility continues to produce Type I compost as defined by the MADEP. About 5000 yards of final compost was produced in FY11. During FY11, compost was made available to individual members of the



local communities; however, the bulk of the compost was sold throughout the state of Massachusetts, New York, Connecticut and Vermont by a contracted vendor.

- Public interests in the District's facility is becoming more frequent, with many tours given to Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts, Williams College, North Adams Public Schools, Williamstown Public Schools and Gabriel Abbott Memorial School.

As always, we look forward to the challenges each year presents to us and remain committed to keeping our communities clean and safe.

## **INSPECTION SERVICES**

**Michael J. Card, Director**

### **BUILDING OFFICIALS**

**Michael J. Card, MCO, Inspector of Buildings**

**Ryan A. Contenta, CBO, Local Inspector**

Building officials administer and enforce a variety of regulations and laws pertaining to buildings and structures. These include but are not limited to new construction, work to existing buildings, demolition of buildings, change of use, architectural access, unsafe or hazardous buildings, mechanical systems, wood and pellet stoves, large party tents, and theatrical stage configurations. Building officials even inspect and certify circus tents!

We issue building permits and perform plan reviews and progress inspections and meet with building and home owners to discuss possible building projects. Plan reviews are issued where required, generally for more complex jobs. The amount of time spent on each review depends upon the complexity of the project and if all required information has been provided. As an example, the plans for the Stetson Library project contain 900 sheets of plans and around 700 pages of specifications. Williamstown's other large ongoing project, The Clark Art Institute project is phased to occur over several years. Phases 1 and 2 contain 303 sheets of plans. Plans for a new single family house typically contain 15 - 25 sheets of plans and a modest amount of specifications. Plans for single family alterations or additions generally contain 5 - 10 sheets. Very small repair projects may contain 0 - 4 sheets, depending upon the nature of the work. In addition to reviewing plans the building officials continually meet with homeowners, builders, architects and engineers in the process of reviewing projects of all sizes. All of these reviews require great attention to detail to ensure residents of Williamstown are receiving a product that complies with the Massachusetts State Building Code.

In reviewing many permit applications the process requires us to verify compliance with permits outside our jurisdiction, these may include: onsite water supplies and sewage disposal systems (Board of Health); Wetlands Protection Act (Conservation Commission); driveway entrance permit (DPW), subdivisions, scenic roads, development plans, zoning bylaw, including special permits and variances (Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals); work done in any railroad right of way, hazards to air navigation ( Commonwealth and FAA), workers compensation coverage before a building permit may be issued. This

requires close co-ordination with other staff and agencies. Unfortunately this may sometimes causes delays in obtaining a permit, but is out of our control.

Any approved permit requires at least one inspection. A new home will require at least 8 progress inspections, ranging from the foundation footings to the final inspection. The Stetson Library and Clark Art projects require almost daily inspection.

- With the 645 permits that were issued for 2011, an estimated 5160 progress inspections were performed.

The Building Inspectors also perform annual inspections of certain public buildings as required by the Building Code. In a response to the loss of life at the Station Night Club in Rhode Island several years ago, the Building Code was changed to require annual inspections of buildings where alcoholic beverages are consumed to be performed jointly by the Inspector of Buildings and Fire Chief Perdercini. These inspections are done once a year and a valid inspection certificate is now a requirement for an alcohol beverage license. This requirement helps to ensure your safety in the event of an emergency at any of the Williamstown's liquor license holding establishments.

- Twenty-seven businesses were inspected in 2011.

Among the regulatory changes that occurred in 2011 the Commonwealth began regulating sheet metal work as a specialty code, like the electrical, plumbing, gas fitting and elevator codes. Sheet metal work includes much of the HVAC trade, furnaces, air handling equipment, and ducts for distributing air. Also included are metal roofing and integral gutter work. We have always inspected these systems, and continue to do so, but a separate sheet metal permit is now required. These regulations apply to commercial and 1 and 2 family dwellings. All regulated work must be done by a licensed sheet metal contractor. A homeowner is no longer permitted to obtain a permit for sheet metal work.

Electrical, plumbing and gas fitting work is done by 2 specialized inspectors. Samuel Vince is our Inspector of Wires and Paul Manzolini is our Plumbing and Gas Inspector.

- There were 483 electrical permits, 136 plumbing permits and 170 gas permits issued in 2011.

All of our inspectors must continually attend classes and seminars to keep up to date with changing codes and building science and to retain our certifications as inspectors. In 2011 our inspectors attended meetings and seminars for the Building Officials of Western Mass, The New England Building Officials Conference at UMass Amherst, and Mass Dept. of Public Safety 9th District. Topics at these seminars ranged from new requirements of the Mechanical Code, how to properly inspect tents and other membrane structures, and new stretch energy code requirements.

In addition to the daily responsibilities of administering the Building Code building inspectors are sometimes called upon to respond to emergency situations. This occurred several times this year in Williamstown as our inspectors were called to inspect several buildings damaged by fire, the most notable being a home that was damaged by a negligent driver on New Ashford Road in May of this year. The most serious emergency situation however occurred this summer when The Spruces was inundated with flood waters as a result of rainfall associated with Tropical Storm Irene on August 27-29. In conjunction with Gordon Bailey from the Dept. of Public Safety A rapid survey conducted by State and local building officials that determined all dwellings in the park were adversely affected by the

flood waters. The Building Inspectors continue to work with homeowners, contractors, and engineers to make sure all units in the Spruces that are able to be repaired and occupied are done so in a safe and timely manner and that all units that owners wished to demolish are also done safely; this is the case in our daily responsibilities as well, is our number one concern, safety.

### LAND USE AND PLANNING

#### **Planner, Andrew Groff**

The Planner is responsible for the administration and enforcement for all of the land use regulations governing development in Williamstown and staff support for the Boards and Commissions that have permitting and regulatory responsibility for these laws and regulations.

A significant part of the Planner's job involves providing support to all members of the community who are investigating the possibility of changing how their land is used. When someone is researching potential development, whether the proposal is a small home addition or a large commercial building, the Planner is generally the first town official you will see when undertaking a project. Having all the technical knowledge about applicable local, state, and federal land use regulations and laws in one department is a great advantage for Williamstown and can help projects large and small reach approval faster than in other communities. It is the Planner's responsibility to help citizens make sense of these laws and regulations and ensure the permitting process is simple fair and equitable for all stakeholders of any size project.

In addition to assisting the public with navigating the maze of Massachusetts land use law, the Planner is responsible for the staff support to five of Williamstown's local boards and commissions, these along with a brief description of each board are;

#### *Conservation Commission*

- The Conservation Commission is responsible for the administration of the Massachusetts Wetlands and Rivers Protection Act (the "Wetlands Protection Act"), this legislation requires approval for activities that involve "digging, dredging, or altering" wetlands or areas near wetlands. The Commission also oversees the management of nine parcels of land owned by the Town which are dedicated to a variety of conservation and recreation goals. Meetings are held on second and fourth Thursdays of each month at 7:00 p.m. and are often preceded by site visits to assess field conditions for projects that are brought to the Commission through the Wetlands Act review process. The Planner attends all of the Commission's meetings to provide staff support and also acts as the Conservation Agent, handling enforcement and other day to day issues of the Commission. This year as Conservation Agent the Planner issued 14 Emergency Certifications for work necessitated by Tropical Storm Irene's flooding.

#### *Historical Commission*

- The Historical Commission reviews projects for compliance with the Demolition Delay Bylaw. The Planner reviews and processes these applications. The Commission meets on Wednesdays, on an as needed basis.

#### *Planning Board*

- The Planning Board is an elected Board, responsible for overseeing the long term land use patterns of Williamstown through the Zoning Bylaw, Subdivision Rules, and Master Planning process. The Planner is responsible for the review of all plans and permit applications that come before the Board and ensures they are complete and distributed to all interested parties. The Planner also provides significant time in staff support to the board. Working with individual members on research projects and possible zoning bylaw, and subdivision regulation amendments. The Planner is also responsible for the maintenance of the Boards official maps and frequently updates the Board on important legislation and other planning issues.

#### *Sign Commission*

- The Sign Inspector is responsible for reviewing all sign applications and may issue any sign which fully complies with the Sign Bylaw; any deviation from the bylaw requires Sign Commission approval. The Sign Inspector is also the enforcing authority under the bylaw. Fines may be assessed under the non-criminal disposition provisions of the Code of the Town of Williamstown. The Sign Commission meets the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of every month.

#### *Zoning Board of Appeals*

- The Zoning Board (ZBA) hears and decides petitions arising from the application of the Williamstown's Zoning Bylaws. These petitions fall into four categories, Special Permits, Variances, Administrative Appeals, and Comprehensive Permits. The Planner is responsible for the review of all of the ZBA's permit applications and ensures they are complete and distributed to all interested parties. Ensuring completion can involve plan review meetings with project stakeholders and other town officials. The Board meets on the third Thursday of every month

The following are brief descriptions of the Board's responsibilities; please see each individual Board's report for a more in-depth description of all the business the Boards and the Planner have been working on for the past year. Despite the limited descriptions you can see that each Board's responsibilities cover a considerably different aspect of Land Use in Williamstown. Despite their differences each Board requires many similar administrative responsibilities from the Planner. The Planner reviews and process all permit applications for each Board or Commission, the level of work involves ranges for each permit but can require the review of the permit application and applicable plans, preparing and mailing notices to abutters, and meetings with other town staff, project developers, attorneys, and local property owners. In addition to reviewing permits the Planner prepares materials for each meeting of the Boards; this includes preparation of the agenda, informational meeting packets for Board and Commission members, and any applicable plan reviews, research, or staff opinions requested by Board or Commission Chairs prior to the meeting. The Planner also attends all Board and Commission meetings to record minutes and provides insight and clarification on any issues that may arise at meetings for the Boards.

Staff support also often entails conducting research and mapping projects for the individual boards as well any projects requested by other Town Boards or staff. One of the most powerful tools used for any project is Williamstown's Geographic Information System (GIS) software. GIS is an important tool that combines data with geographic information to enable representation of a wide variety of information on maps. Particularly important in 2011 was the use of GIS in responding to the flooding from Tropical Storm Irene at the Spruces. Use of

the Town's GIS system enabled the collection of large amounts of data about individual units at the Spruces to be quickly and easily displayed and read on maps. Coupled with the town's website residents, local, state, and federal officials were able to get the information they needed quickly and efficiently.

This tool will become even more useful in the coming years as the town is nearing completion on a long term project to re map our parcel lines in Williamstown with Cartographic Associates of Littleton, New Hampshire. This will greatly increase the accuracy of our GIS information.

Williamstown's Planning staff and Board and Commission members are a group of dedicated individuals who strive to ensure that all development activities that occur in Williamstown are done to the standard set forth by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the Williamstown Town Meeting, and that our permitting processes in Williamstown are simple fair and equitable for all stakeholders of any size project. We all work to make sure that development in Williamstown continues to create the community its citizens want it to be now and in the future.

### HEALTH DEPARTMENT

#### **Jeffrey C. Kennedy, RS, Health Inspector**

Health inspection functions in Williamstown are mandated by State laws and regulations, and by local Board of Health regulations. The inspection and monitoring requirements are many, and include, but are not limited to, food establishments, bathing beaches, septic systems, private wells, housing, swimming pools, tanning facilities, refuse and recycling, manufactured housing communities, beaver control, recreational camps, and nuisances affecting the public health.

The Health Inspector for the town holds licenses as a Registered Sanitarian, a Soil Evaluator, and a Septic System Inspector. All licenses require a commitment for continuing education in the various aspects of their applicable disciplines. Registered Sanitarians are required to accrue 12 contact hours each year; Soil Evaluators and Septic System Inspector must accrue 10 hours every 3 years.

Did you know that over 10% of the boards of health in the United States are located in Massachusetts? Functions that in other states are handled at the state or county level are under the purview of local boards of health. Boards of health or their designated agents have the same responsibilities, and are required to perform the same duties no matter the size of their community. In rural western Massachusetts, boards and their agents do not have the luxury of specializing in certain aspects of a board of health's day-to-day responsibilities. They are general practitioners of public health. It's what makes public health in this side of the Commonwealth both interesting and challenging.

- In 2011 the Board of Health had 235 permits in their database.

Food Establishment inspections are performed on restaurants, cafeterias, dining facilities, bed and breakfasts, non-profit organizations serving an occasional meal for a fee or donation, and retail stores. Inspections look at food handling, facility infrastructure and equipment, and employee cleanliness and appearance. Efforts are made to work with the establishments to upgrade their facilities and improve practices, if needed, to insure patrons are getting a safe meal. New and upgraded establishments require that an application and plan are submitted for review. A schedule of all new equipment with specification sheets are also required.

- There are currently 89 establishments which undergo, at a minimum, annual or semi-annual inspection by the Health Inspector. Additional permits are issued to temporary establishments, which are inspected as needed.
- A total of 149 inspections were conducted in 2011.

The Board of Health issues retail establishment licenses to individual vendors selling processed foods at a farmers' market. The Board of Health must assess the facilities available to the farmer's market, and prohibit any food-handling operation that cannot be safely performed. In addition, the Board of Health may prohibit the sale of certain food items if the items cannot be handled and maintained in accordance with 105 CMR 590.000 requirements.

- In 2011, the Board of Health issued 26 such licenses for various processed foods to be sold either at the Williamstown Farmers' Market and/or the Williamstown Holiday Farmers' Markets. These markets are inspected by the Health Inspector.

The Board of Health requires all rental units to have undergone an inspection within 12 months prior to occupancy by the current tenant. The units are inspected for compliance with 105 CMR 410.000 Minimum Standards of Fitness for Human Habitation, State Sanitary Code, Chapter II. Every unit that meets the standards is issued a Certificate of Compliance. Other conditions also apply, depending upon the length of tenancy.

- There are 774 dwelling units listed in the Rental Unit database. Some of these units may no longer be rental units through sale or conversion to condominium.
- 125 applications for inspection were received in 2011

Every house without access to community water must have a private water supply approved by the Board of Health or its Agent. The Board requires that the proposed well is sited by a Professional Engineer or Registered Sanitarian to meet all safety setbacks, and is drilled by a Massachusetts registered well driller. Following drilling, water quality and quantity reports are submitted by the driller and/or property owner to the Board for review to determine that the supply is sufficient for the house, and meets chemical and bacterial standards. If all information is acceptable, a Certificate of Compliance is issued. A building permit for a new home will not be issued for homes on a private water supply until the Board issues a Well Certificate of Compliance. The Board of Health also requires most of this information for ANY well intended to supply water for ANY purpose. Many geo-thermal system wells have been permitted recently.

- Eight geo-thermal well permits were issued in 2011.
- Total private wells drilled since 1992 regulation - 130

Every home without access to community sewer must have an on-site sewage disposal system that meets the requirements of 310 CMR 15.000, usually referred to as Title 5. Existing on-site systems must be inspected at time of sale or other title transfer, and failing systems or components must be upgraded to meet Title 5 standards. A new system starts with a soil evaluation (perk test) performed by a licensed Soil Evaluator and witnessed by the Board of Health. This insures that the on-site soils absorption system (leaching field) is correctly placed and sized for the home it services. A Professional Engineer or Registered Sanitarian will submit a design plan to the Board for review. Following review, if the plan meets the provisions of Title 5, and if a properly trained and licensed installer is contracted

by the property owner, a permit to construct is issued. Inspections are conducted throughout the installation process by the Board and the designer to monitor compliance with the design plans. Any changes to the plans must be approved by the Board prior to implementation. If the system is constructed properly, and certificates of construction compliance are received by the Board from the engineer and installer, a Certificate of Compliance is issued for the system. Upgrades of failed existing system components are also evaluated for Title 5 compliance prior to installation. The Board of Health requires that all installers working in Williamstown must have attended a training course recognized by the Berkshire County Boards of Health Association and have satisfactorily passed the given exam. In addition, the Board requires that all new or upgraded septic tanks have an effluent filter installed at the tank outlet. This helps prevent field loss through system clogging due to inattention.

- In 2011 several properties had ‘passing’ Title 5 inspections; only one property needed a system upgrade. That system was upgraded using a ‘Perc Rite’ drip disposal system, an innovative technology that works in a similar fashion to drip irrigation system.
- Total Septic Systems in the Williamstown database – 584

The Board of Health from time to time examines all camps, motels, manufactured housing communities and cabins licensed by it and if, upon such examination, such camp, motel, manufactured housing community or cabin is found to be in an unsanitary condition, said board of health may, after notice and a hearing, suspend or revoke such license.

Williamstown hosts many recreational camps for children each summer. Camps must meet the standards set down by the State in 105 CMR 430.000, Minimum Sanitation and Safety Standards for Recreational Camps for Children. Fortunately, most camps are operating on the Williams College campus, which has dormitories, dining facilities, and other infrastructure subject to periodic building and health inspections. The Board insures that camp staff and counselors have undergone criminal and sexual offender record checks, that campers and staff have appropriate medical checks, that a licensed physician, physician’s assistant or nurse practitioner is contracted as a health care consultant, and that adequate medical staff and equipment are available to meet the campers’ needs.

- In 2011, 12 recreational camps for children were held in Williamstown. Most of these camps held multiple sessions throughout the summer.

The Spruces was inundated with flood waters as a result of rainfall associated with Tropical Storm Irene August 27-29, 2011. A rapid survey conducted by State and local building officials had determined that all dwellings were adversely affected by the flood waters.

Inspection by the local Health Inspector and inspectors from the Department of Public Health consisted of the following methods:

1. If the interior of the home was accessible, inspection for damp floors and carpeting, viewing of the floor heating ducts, and determining where the high water marks exist;
2. If the interior was not available, inspection of the underside of the home for evidence of water infiltration (sagging particle board, exposed wires, wet insulation, etc.) was noted;

3. An exterior high water mark was noted, if available. Inspections have shown that the exterior high water mark will correspond with an interior high water mark to determine the extent of interior water infiltration.

All of the condemned homes had shown water penetration to the underside where electrical, plumbing and structural components are affected. Many homes exhibited water penetration to the interior living area. Some homes exhibited visible structural damage to the floors and walls.

- Initially, 155 homes were condemned under the stated criteria. Since then, many homes have undergone re-inspection and 20 have had the condemnation lifted. These units still have to comply with Federal and State building, plumbing and electrical code requirements prior to receiving a Certificate of Occupancy by the Building Inspector.

Margaret Lindley Park has the only authorized public bathing beach in Williamstown. Beach bacterial sampling of the impoundment water at Margaret Lindley Park is periodically tested from Memorial Day to Labor Day, and has always showed excellent results, well within standards set by the state (No single *E. coli* sample shall exceed 235 colonies per 100 ml. and the geometric mean of the most recent five *E. coli* samples within the same bathing season shall not exceed 126 colonies per 100 ml). This facility continues to be very popular with many people in North Berkshire County.

- In 2011 the geometric mean established for the last 5 samples taken was – 48.06.
- In 2011 the beach was closed following Tropical Storm Irene due to water turbidity.

The Board of Health licenses and regulates through inspection the maintenance of safe and appropriate indoor air quality in ice skating rinks that utilize ice resurfacing equipment powered by combustible fuels which produce carbon monoxide or nitrogen dioxide and thereby protect the health, safety and well-being of the public.

- The Williams College Lansing Chapman Rink is inspected annually, usually during the Bay State Games.

The Board of Health also regulates nuisances and noisome trades, and may restrict and/or prohibit any trade or employment, nuisances, sources of filth, injurious odors and potentials for sickness, which may endanger the public health, safety, or welfare of the inhabitants of the Town of Williamstown. Many nuisance complaints are received anonymously by telephone, but still require follow-up and inspection.

Emergency preparedness planning and training continue to be an ever increasing role of public health professionals; planning and preparing in the event of a large scale public health emergency. Training and certification in hazardous material response, incident command, and disease surveillance response are ongoing.

- In addition to local trainings available to health agents, the Federal Government has trainings available, free of charge, through the Center for Defense Preparedness in Anniston Alabama. In 2011 the Health Inspector underwent 4 day training in dealing with agricultural emergencies through conventional or bioterrorism.



Please note that ***most emergency management plans are based on an unlikely*** worst-case scenario. By developing plans for the unlikely worst, anything less than the worst is by default accounted for. This is the case in EDS and isolation planning.

Williamstown has joined the Berkshire County Public Health Alliance to coordinate public health efforts on a larger scale and to assist in planning and implementation of public health functions to smaller communities.

- Since 1995, the Health Inspector has assisted other communities throughout the county by providing technical and physical assistance to those towns without a full time health agent. Although still available to assist other Boards of Health, the Health Alliance will provide that assistance in the future.

The Board of Health also oversees the duties of the Animal Inspector. Dog Officer Jackie Lemieux is also the appointed Animal Inspector for the Town of Williamstown. The Animal Inspector inspects the health and living conditions of livestock located in town, as well as investigating animal bite reports and processing or quarantine animal suspected of carrying rabies. She primarily operates under the provisions of Massachusetts General Law Chapter 129, and reports her findings to the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources. The Board of Health has authority under Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 111 to license all stables and promulgate regulations for the keeping of animals. The Williamstown Board of Health has not set fees for stables, nor has it written regulations, preferring at this time to operate under its adopted guidelines for the proper keeping of livestock. The Health Inspector has worked with the Animal Inspector on various stabling and livestock issues in 2008, and will continue to take an active interest in livestock oversight and care.

The Town of Williamstown has a very pro-active and involved public health program; there is much expected in this town of 8000 +. The Health Inspector continues to use federal, state and local regulations in a reasonable manner to insure the spirit and intent of each are used for the general maintenance and improvement of the community's public health needs.

#### **SEALER OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES**

##### **Jeffrey C. Kennedy**

The Health Inspector, beginning in 2011, has assumed the position of Sealer of Weights and Measures, passing both the written and field test portions of certification. Additionally, there is a continuing education requirement for Certified Sealers.

The duties of the Sealer include:

Enforcement of, and compliance with, Massachusetts General Law chapter 98, sections 34 through 56D pertaining to weighing and measuring devices, including, but not limited to:

- Balances and Scales
- Weights
- Capacity Measures
- Liquid Measuring Devices
- Fuel Pumps
- Linear Measuring Devices

Collection of fees for each inspection performed, to be turned in to the Department of Inspection Services for deposit with the Treasurer/Collector.

The accurate and timely submission of all reports required by state and local authorities.

Insuring all equipment is maintained and repaired, and that certification of weights and standards is accomplished when needed.

- In 2011, 76 gasoline and diesel pumps and 10 scales were inspected and certified.

### ANIMAL INSPECTIONS

#### **Jacqueline Lemieux**

The primary duty of the Animal Inspector has recently become rabies control in the domestic animal population. There are several angles which must be covered to accomplish this.

1. Domestic mammals which come in contact with, or are otherwise exposed to the rabies virus must first be assessed to determine severity of risk. Depending on the vaccination status of the domestic mammal involved, it will be either quarantined or destroyed. Be sure to send in the Notice of Exposure forms that are used for this type of quarantine at least once a month.
2. The Animal Inspector will be contacted by local veterinarians when a client presents an animal which may have had an encounter with a potentially rabid animal. Again, the severity of the situation must be assessed before determining the proper course of action.
3. Any domestic mammal which bites a human or another domestic mammal must be quarantined for a period of ten days to determine the risk of rabies transmission. Be sure to send in the duplicate copies of the Order of Quarantine form at least once a month. If you do not have any animal bites in a six-month period, please send in a letter to that effect.
4. The Animal Inspector must ensure that all animals (wild or domestic) which must be tested for rabies are captured and euthanized. The head must be removed, packaged properly and submitted to the State Rabies Lab for testing. This is not to say that the Animal Inspector must perform these tasks personally, but he/she must ensure that they are completed.

Municipal Animal Inspectors are also responsible for barn inspections. Depending on the city/town, this may be a light task or a lengthy one. Barn inspections are designed to:

1. Get a good census of the domestic animal population of the town;
2. be sure that all of the animals appear to be in good health and free from disease; and
3. observe animal housing and ensure ample food and water are supplied.

Permission to inspect any premise upon which animals are kept is assured to Municipal Animal Inspectors under Section 7 of Chapter 129 of the MGL. Visits are normally scheduled for normal business hours. If a conflict between the animal owner and the Inspector occurs, the Inspector may have a local police officer accompany him or her. If the problem persists, please call the State Bureau of Animal Health's assistance is requested.

The third duty of the Animal Inspector is to check ear tag numbers and date of arrival of cattle from out of state and to report this information on the Animal Inspector's copy of the

Cattle and Llama Permit which is furnished to the Animal Inspector by the Department of Food and Agriculture.

Municipal Animal Inspectors may also be called to assist with other domestic animal disease quarantines in the event of an outbreak.

- In 2011 there were 7 submissions for rabies testing. 0 were positive.
- In 2011 there were 25 quarantines for animal bites or scratches. 17 of these were 10 day quarantine, 6 were 45 day quarantine, and 2 were 6 month quarantine.
- In 2011 18 barns were inspected, containing 800 cattle, 122 Horses/Ponies/Donkeys, 2 sheep, 16 Goats, 13 Llamas, 73 pigs, and 213 Chickens/Waterfowl. One barn was referred to the MSPCA and the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources for further inspection.

### **DOG OFFICER**

#### **Jacqueline Lemieux**

Massachusetts General Law Chapter 140, sections 136A – 175 details the duties and responsibilities of Dog Officers. The Dog Officer is also responsible for the enforcement of the provisions of the Code of the Town of Williamstown, Chapter 10, Animals. Primarily, the Dog Officer responds to complaints of vicious and nuisance dogs, and seeks enforcement for any violations of the above named ordinances. The Dog officer can order the restraint and confinement of any dog found to be a nuisance or a danger, and can refer the matter to the Board of Selectmen for disposition in cases that require removal or destruction of a nuisance or vicious dogs.

- In 2011 the Dog Officer responded to 125 complaints, mainly for nuisances animals, several were for alleged vicious dogs,
- In 2011 the Board of Selectmen heard from aggrieved parties concerning vicious dogs .

The Dog Officer is also responsible for the Town Dog Shelter.

- Making sure there is enough food and supplies on hand.
- Holding stray dog(s) for the 10 day required time period.
- Feeding, cleaning, walking dogs' daily and veterinary care if needed.
- Seven dogs were held at the shelter. Two were held for 10 days, then were taken to the Berkshire Humane Society.

### **MOBILE HOME RENT CONTROL BOARD**

#### **Jack Nogueira, Chair**

During 2011, the Williamstown Rent Control Board held several meetings to decide on a petition submitted by Morgan Management, owners of The Spruces Mobile Home Park. The Rent Increase Petition was denied and Morgan Management filed a motion with the Berkshire Superior Court questioning our decision. At this time no decision has been made and motion has been postponed due to the unfortunate and devastating flood of the park that forced residents to vacant the park.

Special thanks to my fellow Board Members, David Levine, John Luczynski and a very special thanks to Board Member Cheryl Shanks who took it upon herself to prepare and write our final decision.

**MOUNT GREYLOCK REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL**  
**Rose Ellis, Superintendent**

<b>ANNUAL REPORT</b>			
<b>School Year 2010-2011</b>			
<b>STUDENT ENROLLMENT</b>	<b>604</b>	<b>FACULTY AND STAFF</b>	<b>83.60</b>

In June 2011, Mount Greylock Regional School District sent a representative team of administrators and faculty to the Model School Conference in Nashville. This marked the beginning of a year-long collaboration with the International Center for Leadership in Education (ICLE) to focus on building *rigor, relevance and relationships* within the school community. Working with the Center, the school’s leadership team has developed a plan for the 2011-2012 school year that includes school community surveys, a comprehensive needs assessment and staff professional development. The District goal is to work together to prepare *all* Mt. Greylock students for 21<sup>st</sup> Century learning in a rapidly changing world.

**STUDENT ACADEMIC SUCCESS**

Mt. Greylock students continue to receive recognition for high academic achievements. The Class of 2011 had nine **Advanced Placement (AP) Scholars**, including *Thomas Dils, Joshua Harrington, Lauren Haskins, Gregory Karabinos, John Karabinos, Namoi LaChance, Rebekeh Packer, Grace Singleton, and Reena Walker*; four **AP Scholars with Distinction**, including *Catherine Costley, Melody Edwards, Edward Kleiner, and Marta Kowitz*; and six **AP Scholars with Honors**, including *Kristina Chesney, Eliza Densmore, Elizabeth Gorson, Laura Rosenthal, Aaron Taylor, and Alyssa Tomkowicz*. Results on the SAT tests were also impressive with a three test average score of 1662 well above the state average of 1549 and the national average of 1500.

In the third annual Massachusetts report on the percentage of students graduating with four years of attendance from 2007 to 2011, Mount Greylock had an adjusted success rate of 96.9 percent, the second highest rate in Berkshire County. Three students, *Catherine Costley, Gregory Karabinos, and Daniel Phelps*, became **National Merit Commended** students, and one student, *Melody Edwards*, was a **National Merit Finalist**.

In June, 79 students of the **Class of 2011** received their diplomas. Ninety-five percent of the graduates planned to continue their education with 95% going to college. The 2011 class headed to 47 different colleges including: *Williams College, Princeton University, University of Michigan, Western New England College, UMA/Amherst, University of Wisconsin, MCLA, BCC and American University*.

### PERFORMING ARTS AT MT. GREYLOCK

The Performing Arts calendar year was busy. In January 2011 middle and high school students each put in wonderful winter band, orchestra and choral performances under the guidance of our Music Department Faculty of Lyndon Moors, Band Director, Ouisa Fohrhaltz, Orchestra Director and Marlene Walt, Choral Director. The high school musical, directed by Jeff Welch, was ***Thoroughly Modern Millie*** while the middle school students performed ***Potter***, an original musical production directed by Kathy O'Mara. The Spring Drama, ***Fabulae: An Evening of Three One-Act Plays***, was directed by three teams of Juniors: *Naomi LaChance & Hannah Paul*, *Maggie Crane & Ned Kleiner*, and *Charlie Sutter & Peter Iwasika*. In November 2010, 35 students performed in the annual Fall Shakespeare Festival production, ***Love's Labour's Lost***. Following on-campus performances, the Mount Greylock cast joined students from ten other local high schools to stage the usual multi-school marathon of Shakespearean productions at the Founders Theater in Lenox.

The *Friends of the Arts*, parent organization, once again held their annual ***Food of Love Festival*** at the Williams Inn. Love and chocolate was the theme as the students from Mount Greylock performed selected Shakespearean scenes and read sonnets. As always, guests enjoyed a sumptuous buffet of chocolate desserts. Funds raised at this event help support the ***Fall Shakespeare Festival***. The Friends of the Arts are active year round in the support of art and cultural events at the school.

Mt. Greylock student musicians and vocalists competed in Regional and State Music Festivals. *Eliza Densmore*, *Schuyler Fohrhaltz-Burbank*, *Caleb Raymond*, *Sophia Santore*, *Nathan Majumder*, *Harrison Dilthey*, *George Dilthey*, and *Taylor Fohrhaltz-Burbank* participated in the ***Western MA Senior District Music Festival*** in January. Students participating in the ***Western MA Junior District Festival*** in March included *Marcella Ferry*, *Heather Tomkowicz*, *Kiara Garofalo*, *Celestine Lockhart*, *Anyia Sheldon*, and *Molly Wilson*. *Sophia Santore* was selected to the ***All State Music Festival*** at *Boston's Symphony Hall*. In addition to competitions, our students provide instrumental and choral support for student theater productions and give annual winter, spring and fall evening concerts for the community directed by the Music Department. We are proud of our talented students.

### VISUAL ARTS STUDENTS SHINE

During the 2010-2011 school year ten Mt. Greylock students' Artworks were exhibited in ***The Norman Rockwell Museum*** for the Annual "*Berkshire High School Art Show*." Twenty-one students exhibited artwork at a juried student exhibit hosted by MASS MoCA. Of those, four students won gold medallions, three won silver and *Sarah Kelly*, a Junior, won a grand prize of an Art class during her senior year at MCLA. Our students exhibited over thirty works of art at the Eclipse Mill Gallery in North Adams, also an annual student art exhibit. The Art Department wrote a See Fund grant for a printing press, to supplement our "off press" print making class. It was generously awarded and subsequently integrated into the printmaking class making it a more comprehensive curriculum.

### THE WILLIAMS CENTER @ MOUNT GREYLOCK

***The Williams Center at Mt. Greylock***, now in its fourth year, continues to expand educational opportunities for local middle school and high school students while providing

challenging extracurricular experiences for Williams undergraduates. Contributions to Mt. Greylock's core academic offerings can now be noted in most subjects, and there will be continued focus on writing, research, math, hands-on science, and targeted after-school homework help for all students. Most notable are collaborative efforts by college students and high school English teachers to support student writing in many English classes and online.

This past year Williams' math faculty played a vital role in extending opportunities for Greylock 10<sup>th</sup> graders and professional development for teachers by creating **MathBlast**, a half-day series of real-life math workshops taught by Williams faculty. The Williams Center continued its support of the high school biology research project by arranging orientation at *Schow Science Library* and by offering interested Greylock students the opportunity to work with a professor in a college lab as part of that project.

The Center for Environmental Studies supported a summer Williams intern to support the gardening initiatives of the **MG Youth Environmental Squad**. Mt. Greylock's school garden was able to produce food for the cafeteria during both the fall and spring seasons. Over the summer, produce was sent to local food pantries in collaboration with the Williams College WRAPS initiative.

Once again, Williams professors and community members ran hands-on, place-based workshops for the 11<sup>th</sup> grade, "*Where Are We?*" day, offering sessions from ecology to orienteering to environmental art. Throughout the year, more than 50 college students worked with middle school and high school students in after-school tutoring sessions both at the school and on campus at Williams.

In June, as part of the new Superintendent's initiative with the International Center for Leadership in Education ([ICLE](#)), a small group of Mt. Greylock teachers, administrators, and representatives from Williams attended *The Model Schools Conference* in Nashville, TN. The conference inaugurated a vital all-school transformation initiative, which over the coming years will focus on innovative teaching and learning for the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Work with ICLE will significantly inform and guide Williams Center activities.

Many activities required no funding and were simply the fruits of school and college connections facilitated by the Center's Coordinator, Kaatje White. In addition to help from professors and academic departments, Williams provided in-kind programmatic services this past year from the Center for Community Engagement, the Office of Experiential Education, the Williams College Museum of Art, the '62 Center for Theatre and Dance, the Williams College Libraries, the Admission Office, the Office of Information Technology (free workshops available to Greylock students and employees), the Zilkha Center for Environmental Initiatives, The Center for Environmental Science, and the Office of Alumni Relations and Development Communications.

### ATHLETIC SCHOLARS

Mt. Greylock student athletes continue to excel both athletically and academically while representing their school well throughout Berkshire County. Of the 22 Varsity Programs, 20 earned **MIAA Academic Excellence Honors** during the 2010-2011 athletic seasons. Gold Honors are given to teams with an overall team GPA above 3.0, while Silver Honors are

awarded to teams with a team GPA of 2.5-3.0. Additionally, Mount Greylock was awarded the **2010-2011 District Sportsmanship Award**. *Henry Barrett, Nathan Majumder, Sophia Dastoli, and Katherine Chenail* were selected to go to the **MLAA Sportsmanship Summit** at Gillette Stadium and receive the award for Mount Greylock. *Kim Houston, Siri Mason, Kristina Chesney, and Sarah Brink* were honored at the **National Girls and Women in Sports Day** convention at Faneuil Hall.

**Fall 2010:** Both **Cross Country Teams** won **Western Mass Championship Titles**. *Cate Costley* placed first at the sectional meet for the girls and *Matt Cheung* placed second for the boys. *Cate Costley* also continued on to place 5<sup>th</sup> in the State. The **Boys' Soccer** program was once again seeded first in Western Mass, while the **Girls' Volleyball** program made it to the Western Mass Semi-Finals with a fantastic record of 23-2. *Kim Houston*, a member of the **Girls' Soccer** Team was honored with the **Berkshire County Sportsmanship Award**.

**Winter 2010-2011:** The **Nordic Ski Teams** continued their success by adding another set of State Titles to their repertoire. The **Alpine Ski Teams** sent *Kristina Chesney, Connor Krell, Zach Hanson, and Kent Hanson* to the State Championship race, where the boys' team placed 4<sup>th</sup> overall. The **Wrestling Team** performed well in both the individual and team Western Mass events. *Josh Hadley* and *Zach Larabee* qualified for the State Tournament, and *Josh Hadley* also qualified for and competed in the **All-State Championship Meet**.

**Spring 2011:** The **Girls' Track Team** placed 8<sup>th</sup> in Western Mass, and the *4x100 relay team* of *Elizabeth Gorson, Oona Wood, Jenna Phelps, and Alexandra Majectich* placed 3<sup>rd</sup> in the **All-State Track Meet**. Both the **Baseball Team** and **Girls' Tennis Team** qualified for tournament play and were **Western Mass Quarterfinalists**. There were a group of Mount Greylock students that participated on the Greylock Club Lacrosse Team through the Berkshire County Lacrosse Association. The **Girls' Lacrosse Team** was a **Berkshire County Finalist**, while the **Boys Lacrosse Team** won the title of **Berkshire County Champions**.

## PARENTS AND COMMUNITY



Parents and community volunteers continue to support the many activities and programs at Mt. Greylock. There was a successful, well organized “**After Prom 2011**” held for the graduating class. The hard-working athletic booster clubs and extra-curricular organizations received year round support through a combination of user fees and many on-site fundraisers. Parent, staff and community members of the **SEE Fund Board** sponsored a fundraising telethon in collaboration with Willinet for the spring of 2011 in support of the educational endowment grants submitted by faculty and community members that enrich innovative school-based ideas at Mt. Greylock.

### FACULTY HONOR

*Pat Stanton* was honored as **Faculty member of the Year** by the 2011 Mt. Greylock graduates. Mr. Stanton teaches mathematics in the High School.

### BUILDING REPAIR PROJECTS

Dual projects to update the boiler system and renovate locker rooms were completed during 2010-2011. The original boilers were removed and replaced with smaller, more efficient units that will provide reliable heating at a lower cost to the district. The locker rooms were renovated with updates to structure, plumbing, and electrical systems, the reorganization of changing spaces, and installation of new lockers. The School Committee oversaw both building repair projects.

The year 2011 also saw the Building Subcommittee’s filing of a comprehensive *Statement of Interest (SOI)* with the Massachusetts School Building Authority to seek long-term assistance in a substantial building renovation or reconstruction project. In this SOI, the



Superintendent and the Subcommittee identified several critical areas in need of improvement, including air quality, the heating system, accessibility, and the lack of science lab facilities. The SOI was filed in January, 2012.

Community members are invited to stay apprised of Mt. Greylock events and accomplishments by visiting the expanding Mt. Greylock website at [www.mgrhs.org](http://www.mgrhs.org).

## **NORTHERN BERKSHIRE CULTURAL COUNCIL**

**Juliana Haubrich** Williamstown Representative (2006-2012) and Chair

Juliana Haubrich, Williamstown Representative (2006-2012) and Council Chair from 2010-2012  
Stephen Dankner, Williamstown Representative

The CCNB is part of a grass-roots network of 329 local councils that serve every city and town in the state of Massachusetts. As the local arm of the Massachusetts Cultural Council, the CCNB is one of the largest cooperative councils and represents 11 towns including: Williamstown, Adams, Cheshire, Clarksburg, Florida, Hancock, Lanesboro, Monroe, New Ashford, North Adams, and Savoy. Representatives from the 11 towns rotate in 2-4 year cycles. The council is always looking for new volunteers to represent their towns. Contact Juliana at the Milne Public Library if you are interested in serving ([413-458-5369](tel:413-458-5369)).

The state legislature provides an annual appropriation to the Massachusetts Cultural Council, which then allocates funds to each of their local councils. The amount allocated depends on the size of the population served and the amount designated by the state budget. Decisions about which community activities to support are made at the local level by a council of municipally appointed volunteers.

In 2011, over \$55,000 was awarded to 62 individuals, organizations and schools to fund cultural activities. Some of the awards for projects in Williamstown include:

- Mount Greylock High School's Fall Festival of Shakespeare
- Williamstown Rural Lands Foundation's "New England Cultural Heritage" programming
- Equus Therapeutics' "Summer Programs" and "Ride-a-thon"
- Pine Cobble's "African Drum and Dance Workshop"
- Williamstown Elementary School's "Arts" program
- Images Cinema's "Film and Live Music" series
- Williamstown Chamber of Commerce's "Sundays @ Six" summer series
- Williamstown Community Preschool's "Science Enrichment Program"
- Williamstown Youth Center "Educated Kids – Renewable Energy" program

## **NORTHERN BERKSHIRE SOLID WASTE DISTRICT**

**Scott L. Park, Commissioner**

In 2011 there was hope that the global markets that had collapse for our recyclables would start to come back which they did some what. This meant that the markets that became very choosy about the quality of material they would accept had eased up and we were able to go back to what we used to recycle in 2008.

In March the District Commissioners met to discuss and vote on the FY- 10-11 budget which will still be challenging for the district due to the economy. Our preliminary discussion is that we will be level funding for the next year, which we did. Each District town will be paying the same assessment as the year before which was \$2.05 per capita. The only plus side for Williamstown was our assessment went down do to the new federal census that showed our population went down in 2011.

Last year the District held paint collections in May, June and October for residents to dispose of old paint were two thirty gallon containers of spray paint, 440 gallons of latex/acrylic paint and 233 gallons of oil/paint and stains were collected. All the paint & stains collected were shipped to the Environmental Quality Facility in Detroit, Michigan

The District continues to hold electronic collections annually which we held on Saturday October 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Adams recycling center on East road this past fall. Over the last few years we have noticed a decline in the amount of electronics collected, which prompted us to cut back on the number of collections we would hold each year. In the beginning we would hold four collections and ship six to eight containers, now its only two containers a year. The District also held two Bulky Waste Days again last year, one in Clarksburg and one in Lanesborough.

Our (household Hazardous Waste Collection) day was held at the Adams DPW Facility on Oct 9, were we collected item such as Chlordane, Hydrochloric acid, DDT, elemental mercury, 100 gallons of antifreeze and nearly 100 gallons of paint thinner. It was a great success to get these things out of our environment.

The district put on a recycled craft program at the Harper Center in December, were seniors learned how to make wreaths using metal coat hangers and plastic shopping bags. Also the district participated in the DPW annual truck day for the Williamstown community pre-school were the children learn about recycling and received a Frisbee made from recycled plastic

The district also offers thing like (cistern rain barrels, and earth machine composter's) to all district member towns.

The last thing I would like to mention is if you have not visited our web site you should, there's a lot of useful information on all kinds of recycling and trash disposal.

The following District programs are run by the district. Any participating member town can participate:

- Household Hazardous Waste Collection
- Recycle Tire Program
- Surplus Paint Collection Program
- Compost bins for residents
- Mercury Thermometer Exchange
- Electronics Collection
- Bulky Waste collection
- School education programs

➤ Fluorescent light bulb collection

If residents have any questions about districts programs, please do not hesitate to call Sandy Totter at the district office at 413-743-8208 or go to our website at [www.nbswmd.org](http://www.nbswmd.org) or from a link on the Town of Williamstown website at [www.williamstown.net](http://www.williamstown.net)

## **NORTHERN BERKSHIRE VOCATIONAL REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**James Brosnan, Superintendent**

The Northern Berkshire Vocational Regional School District, McCann Technical School, students, faculty and staff continued their record of noteworthy accomplishments in fiscal year 2011 and this report highlights some of these accomplishments.

As the national and regional economic recession continued to affect the Commonwealth, McCann officials reduced expenditures while protecting our hallmark high quality vocational-technical and academic programs for our students. Our unanimously approved FY11 budget unanimously approved contained a modest .0119 % increase.

Our mission is to graduate technically skilled, academically prepared, and socially responsible individuals ready to meet the challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Our mission and educational philosophy are implemented by adhering to the following core values:

Communication strengthens partnership development and teamwork

Achievement is attained through a strong work ethic.

Respect from all guarantees a safe learning environment

Ethics ensure a dedication to honesty and integrity.

During the last sixteen years we have witnessed a dramatic transformation in vocational technical education especially in our application of technology and STEM subjects. We are very proud of the academic and technical achievement of our students and as each succeeding class raises the bar of accomplishment, the next class seeks to surpass it. The integration of our technical and academic curriculum has prepared our graduates well for their future and we appreciate you, our member communities, for your support in making it happen.

The accomplishments of our students reflect the McCann culture of learning:

- The Class of 2011 became the eighth class in a row to attain 100 percent competency determination on the MCAS tests.
- Thirty-three of the Class of 2011 earned the prestigious John and Abigail Adams Scholarship awarded through the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education having scored at the advanced or proficient level in MCAS testing.

•The results of the spring 2010 MCAS test once again echoed the continuous progress of our students through their dedication and that of our terrific faculty. Once again McCann has achieved its goal measured by AYP.

<b>GRADE 10 - MATHEMATICS</b>				
<b>PERFORMANCE LEVEL</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>
ADVANCED	23	35	30	41
PROFICIENT	41	39	35	37
NEEDS IMPROVEMENT	27	22	32	20
FAILING	9	5	3	3
<b>GRADE 10 - ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS</b>				
<b>PERFORMANCE LEVEL</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>
ADVANCED	8	17	11	14
PROFICIENT	55	56	61	73
NEEDS IMPROVEMENT	36	25	25	13
FAILING	1	3	2	1
<b>GRADE 10 - SCIENCE AND TECH/ENG</b>				
<b>PERFORMANCE LEVEL</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>
ADVANCED	1	9	9	11
PROFICIENT	40	55	51	64
NEEDS IMPROVEMENT	52	30	28	22
FAILING	7	6	12	3

McCann competes in the Pioneer Valley Interscholastic Athletic Association which we joined 14 years ago. The 2010-2011 school year was one our most successful with, every sports team qualifying for the Western Mass Tournament. Recent notable accomplishments include a member of our golf team capturing the school's second-ever Western Mass Championship and our football team earning a berth in the Super Bowl Tournament for the first time in the program's history. Our co-op athletes also provided strong contributions to the 5 host schools as exemplified by our 5 wrestlers who qualified for the Western Mass Tournament. We are proud of the student athletes who take the extra commitment of representing McCann.

Our 122 2011 graduates saw 72% continue their education in a variety of colleges and universities, 21% enter the workforce and 7% proudly enter into military service.

Our use of educational technology continued to evolve throughout the year spurred by receipt of a prestigious DESE \$187,000.00 grant for the development of online courses and modules for at-risk students. This funding enabled us to establish an online course delivery portal, provide professional development to teachers in 21st century best practices in online learning, create more than 40 online content modules that can be used for on-time remediation of students, upgrade our technology infrastructure with 40 laptops on 2 carts, a web server, and operating system upgrades. McCann also received a \$97,300.00 grant from the Massachusetts Life Sciences Center. This grant, in collaboration with MCLA, allowed for the 3 science labs to be fully-equipped for our students to perform real-world biotechnology lab techniques and increase their exposure to life science careers with state-of-the-art equipment and supplies.

Community service projects continue to provide us with an excellent opportunity to allow our students to exhibit their skills and support community activities. Projects included renovations at Windsor Lake involving CAD, carpentry, metal fabrication and electrical students as well as the refurbishing of the Adams Lions Club trailer. Our culinary students were very busy supporting a number of community groups including Relay for Life, families in need, and military family groups to name a few. Our metal fabrication and machine technology students recreated period lighting fixtures for the North Adams post office celebration.

For the past 10 years our students have participated in SkillsUSA. We maintain 100% enrollment in the program, which has provided the opportunity for our students to earn scholarships, tools for their trade, opportunities for employment and awards in recognition of their accomplishments. To date, our secondary and postsecondary students have earned 20 gold medals at the national competitions. At the SkillsUSA state competition McCann high school students earned gold medals in culinary arts, and customer service, and postsecondary students in dental assisting, job interview and medical assisting. High school silver medals were awarded in engineering technology, mechatronics and welding and postsecondary silver medals in cosmetology and medical assisting. High school bronze medals were awarded in automated manufacturing technology, computer maintenance technology and customer service and postsecondary bronze medals in cosmetology.

Six years ago, students from our office technology and information technology programs began participating in Business Professionals of America competitions. In that short time, our students have earned 79 awards in four categories at the State Leadership Conference and 24 awards in four categories at the national competition. During the 2011 national completion in Washington, D.C. 10 of our students finished between 2<sup>nd</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> in these competitions.

Project Lead the Way, the leading provider of STEM education curriculum programs for middle and high schools in the U.S., certified the program at McCann in 2007. Students in the program complete four courses. Since the time of certification, 58% of participating students have become eligible for college credit through Rochester Institute of Technology

and New Hampshire Technical Institute as a result of their performance on the national engineering examination. During 2011, 15 students earned college credits and since the inception of the program 63 students have earned between 4 and 12 college credits.

The success of our student body continues to be measured by our 100% competency determination, high career placement, high college matriculation rate and technical expertise in national skills competitions.

The district continues to operate on sound financial management principals and incorporates technology in this process to ensure maximum benefit for all of our programming. In FY11 we continued to operate, as we have for the past 16 years, with the municipal minimum recommended assessments for all of our member communities. Additional requirements were assessed for student transportation and the capital rehabilitation debt service for the one year gymnasium project. At the end of the fiscal year we returned \$33,732.00 of unused transportation monies to our communities. The district continues to search out grants to support our educational funding to improve instructional services and vocational equipment. During the year we completed the replacement of all electrical fixtures installing motion and light sensors and related devices resulting in significant electricity cost savings while providing enhanced technical skills training for our electricity students.

FY11 Budgeted Revenues		
City and Town Assessments	Original	Actual
Municipal Minimums	\$1,959,117	\$1,959,117
Capital	\$ 126,563	\$ 126,563
Transportation	\$ 194,200	\$ 194,200
State Aid		
Ch 71 Transportation	\$ 156,000	\$ 189,732
Ch 70 General School Aid	\$4,171,054	\$4,173,354
Tuitions	\$1,252,200	\$1,309,138
Miscellaneous Revenue	\$ 17,363	\$ 18,916.41
SFAF Stabilization Grant	\$ 81,642	\$ 22,404
	\$7,958,139	\$7,993,424.41

Member City & Town Transportation Refunds	(\$33,732.00)
Misc. Revenue Balance to Surplus E & D	(\$1,553.41)

<b>Source</b>	<b>Grant</b>	<b>Amount</b>
<b>(Stimulus Funds)</b>		
ARRA	ARRA Title I	\$42,201.00
ARRA	ARRA Sped	\$66,153.00
ARRA	ARRA Title II D	\$148,806.00
SFSF	Education Jobs	\$131,423.00
SFSF	SFSF	\$22,404.00
<b>(Federal Entitlement)</b>		
Fed	Sped 240	\$117,774.00
Fed	Title IV	\$750.00
Fed	Title I	\$135,947.00
Fed	Title I Distribution	\$1,636.00
Fed	Title II A	\$24,912.00
Fed	Perkins	\$82,272.00
<b>(State Entitlement)</b>		
State	Big Yellow School Bus	\$200.00
State	Academic Support	\$10,400.00
State	MA Life Science	\$97,300.00
<b>(Competitive/Private)</b>		
Private	Olmsted	\$5,000.00
Private	BHG Wellness	\$2,000.00
Private	BCREB: Connecting Activities	\$1,000.00
Private	BCREB Northern Tier PV	\$42,500.00
Private	BCREB Project Health Grant	\$3,500.00
Private	BCC-Solid Works	\$2,500.00
Private	SBEC PD	\$4,589.00
<b>TOTAL GRANTS</b>		<b>\$943,267.00</b>

## PLANNING BOARD

Patrick Dunlavey, Chair



The Planning Board is an elected Board, responsible for overseeing the long-term land use patterns of Williamstown through the Zoning Bylaw, Subdivision Rules, and Master Planning process. Comprised of five members the Board is chaired by Patrick Dunlavey, with additional members; Richard DeMayo, Elizabeth McGowan, Ann McCallum, and Chris Winters.

In 2011 the Board was hard at work on updating and revising the Town's Zoning Bylaws to ensure the continued growth and viability of the community while preserving what makes Williamstown such a special place. Town Meeting 2011 saw the enactment of several new zoning proposals from the Planning Board. These included, changing the Special Permit Authority for most large residential projects to the Zoning Board of Appeals. This change invests the authority to permit these projects in the Board with the most technical expertise at permitting larger commercial projects. The Planning Board believes this change will lead to a simpler and fairer process for developers and abutters alike. Last year's Town Meeting also saw the adoption of bylaw changes that expand the types of residential development permitted in town, removing some restrictions on two and multifamily properties as well as allowing first floor residential development in areas near Water Street.

Finally, the bylaw with the most potential impact adopted in 2011 was a long awaited revision of the town's stormwater management regulations. This new bylaw was created to address some of the longstanding concerns of many residents regarding damage caused by stormwater to downstream neighbors of various types of development. Since adoption the bylaw has already proved effective at protecting the environment and private property around Williamstown.

In 2012 the Board has continued its work on the bylaws by working with farmers in Williamstown to expand allowable uses on agricultural properties, and investigating the impacts of allowing accessory dwelling units and larger scale solar panel developments. Throughout the remainder of 2012 the Board will be meeting the second Tuesday of each month at 7 PM and encourages the public to attend and discuss the present and future land use patterns of Williamstown, and how our town can grow, protect, and manage the fabric of our community from now into the future.



## **POLICE DEPARTMENT**

### **Chief Kyle J. Johnson**

The Police Chief oversees the Police Department, Communications Section and the Forest Warden. These three departments are made up of a group of hard-working, dedicated professionals. Williamstown is very fortunate to have these people, and I would like to start this report by personally thanking these men and women for their continued hard work, dedication and professionalism that they display each and every day, and to the Community for the continued support of these departments.

#### *Administration / Personnel*

Colin Shepley joined the department in 2011, serving as a part time Dispatcher in the Communications Section. Shepley interned with the Department while a senior at Mt. Anthony High School in Bennington, VT and during his internship, was able to complete all the necessary trainings and certifications to work as a 911 Dispatcher.

The Department was acknowledged by the West Springfield Police Department (WSPD) for sending Sergeant Paul Thompson, K9 Officer Michael Ziemba and Bloodhound Blue to West Springfield immediately after that area was ravaged by tornadoes on June 1. The trio assisted WSPD and other public safety agencies with victim searches and curfew enforcement during the immediate aftermath of the event.

Officer Shuan William was awarded by the Massachusetts State Police for his work on the Berkshire County Drug Task Force.

#### *Trainings*

Training is a very important element for effective policing. Laws are constantly being created or updated, and technology is rapidly advancing in the world of law enforcement. There is a delicate balance between staying current, and sometimes even ahead of these changes, while working within the strict confines of a budget. The department recognizes the importance of training, and every year all officers receive In-Service training through classroom sessions at the Western Massachusetts Police Academy in Springfield, or online through various agencies such as the Municipal Police Training Committee, Massachusetts State Police or Municipal Police Institute.

2011 included subjects such as: Custodial Suicide Prevention, MV Stop Safety, Commercial MV Stops, MV Pursuits, Defensive Tactics, Defensive Drivers, Persons with Disabilities, Human/Animal Violence Education, Electrical Safety for First Responders, Forensic Training, Sexual Assaults, Legal Updates, Officer Involved Domestic Violence, Reducing Excessive Force Claims, Reducing Police Vehicle Collisions, First Responder, Prisoners with Underlying Medical Psych Conditions,

We also conduct some training within the Department with our own staff functioning as instructors. These include handgun, long gun and electronic weapons qualifications. In addition to the in-service trainings and certifications, the following are some of the specialized training that was able to be attended:

JANUARY: Officer Garner became certified as a 911 Telecommunicator, becoming the final officer to become cross-trained to work as a 911 Telecommunicator.

FEBRUARY: Sergeant McGowan attended a Technology Based Investigations Conference sponsored by the Massachusetts Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force and hosted by the Berkshire District Attorney's Office. Topics included electronic evidence gathering, social networking sites, Internet protocol (IP) addresses and how to obtain subpoenas and phone records to pursue an alleged crime.

Officer William attended Commonwealth Police training in Holyoke covering search warrants and warrantless search and seizures. Officer William also became recertified as a Breath Test Operator at the Western Ma Police Academy in Springfield.

MARCH: Chief Johnson and Sergeant Thompson attended training at the Western Ma Police Academy regarding the Emergency Medical Dispatch mandate to take effect in July of 2012.

Johnson and Officers Eichhammer, Kelly and Ziemba also became recertified as Breath Test operators at Western Ma Police Academy in Springfield.

APRIL: Sergeant Lemieux and K9 Officer Ziemba attended Animal Control Officer training in Holyoke.

Sergeant Lemieux also attended a four-hour block on Work Zone Safety.

MAY: Sergeant Lemieux attended Firearms Instructor recertification training in Pittsfield.

K9 Officer Ziemba and Blue attended a week long K9 Workshop at UMass, Amherst, where the team recertified in tracking.

Sergeant McGowan attended an eight-hour class on Child Abuse & Neglect, and an eight-hour class on Child Abuse Identification at the Western Ma Police Academy in Springfield.

Officer Hernandez attended a three-day Crime Scene Documentation class at the Western Ma Police Academy in Springfield.

AUGUST: Officer Jolin became certified in Standardized Field Sobriety tests and as a Firearms Instructor.

Chief Johnson, all Sergeants, Officers and three part time Dispatchers attended a three day class for Emergency Medical Dispatch (EMD) to meet the mandate that all Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs) are certified by July 1, 2012.

SEPTEMBER:

Sergeants Thompson and Lemieux, and Officers Garner and Hernandez became recertified as Breath Test operators at Western Ma Police Academy in Springfield.

Sergeants McGowan, Thompson and Lemieux attended a Sergeant’s Leadership Conference in Marlborough, Ma, covering topics such as Leadership Communication Skills, Adaptive Leadership Methodology, Essential Leadership Skills, the Sergeants Role as a Leader, Working with Difficult Subordinates, Discipline, Internal Affairs, Ethics and Police Professionalism.

NOVEMBER: All officers recertified in handgun, long gun and electronic weapons.

### GRANTS

In 2011, the following grant monies and/or equipment were awarded to the Department. In most instances, the grants come with specific rules regarding implementation and they generally do not allow their use to supplant any portion of the operating budget.

The following grant monies were received:

<b>Source</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Governor’s Highway Safety Bureau	Traffic Safety Patrols	\$ 2700
State 911 Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) Support	Dispatch Equipment & Personnel Costs	\$25892
Executive Office of Public Safety & Security	Underage Alcohol Related Crime Enforcement	\$ 4980
State 911 Dept.	EMD Training	\$14416

### Community Policing

The Department continued its Community Policing approach throughout 2011, and will do so well into the future. Community Policing is a style of police work that puts heavy emphasis on partnering with the community and problem solving as many issues as possible that threaten to erode the quality of life within the community. A large emphasis is placed on the smaller, less obvious issues to help establish ways of dealing with them before they can become a source of erosion to the quality of life for the residents and visitors of our community. This is known as the “Broken Windows” theory. If a broken window is not fixed, then adjacent windows will be broken until the facade of the entire building is eroded. However, if this first window is maintained, the temptation to break other windows is reduced, and the building will stay intact. The “building” in this theory is the community. Everyone knows that crimes such as drug offenses, assaults and larcenies are violations of the law and dealing with these issues falls under standard police work. The Community Policing philosophy tackles the smaller issues that tend to lead up to these more serious crimes in an effort to prevent them from occurring altogether.

- “Broken Windows” of 2011

- Foot Patrols

Uniformed officers continue to walk and bike the street, not only to enforce the parking restrictions, but to interact with the community as well. Their presence is well received as most officers are approached during their walk to give directions, answer questions or engage in general conversation.

- Community Events Planning

The department stays busy directing traffic around numerous events throughout the year. These include the Williams College Graduation and the Alumni Parade on Main and Spring Streets, the annual Holiday Walk on Spring Street, Memorial and Independence Day Parades, Cal Ripken Parade, and numerous road races that occur on town streets.

- A Safer Williamstown

This program allows the department to issue an informational brochure to all residents that apply for and receive either a Firearms Identification Card (FID) or a License to Carry (LTC) a firearm. The brochure focuses on safe gun storage, gun safety rules, and important points of law. Through a partnership with Project Home Safe, the Department is also able to distribute gun safety locks, free of charge, to all residents. Anyone in need of gun safety locks should call or stop by the Williamstown Police Department.

The issuance of the FID or LTC by the department has been expedited by the department implementing MIRCS (Massachusetts Instant Record Check System). MIRCS is a new program implemented through the Criminal History Systems Board for online instant record checks, photos and fingerprinting for firearms licensing applicants and should improve efficiency in the licensing process by confirming data and fingerprint identification immediately. This system allows for an electronic application process to reduce the delays caused by forwarding paper applications by mail. Sergeant David Lemieux is trained to administer and process all applications, and generally new applicants and renewals can be performed between 4:00PM and 10:00PM when Sgt. Lemieux is on duty. People are encouraged to call just prior to coming to the station to check his availability.

- Prescription Round-Up

The Williamstown Police Department participated in the National Prescription Drug Round-Up in April and again in September, taking in a total of 168 pounds of pills, ointments and fluids. There will be one more Prescription Round-Up at the landfill location on Saturday, April 28, 2012.

Thanks to students from the McCann Technical School, two boxes have been constructed to mount on the front wall adjacent to Dispatch in the Police Station, so that anyone needing to dispose of unwanted medication, including sharps, and can do at any time and not have to store them for future Round-ups.

- Noise Abatement Program

The Noise Abatement Program has worked efficiently for the last eight years. This program partners the Police Department with Williams College Campus Safety & Security, Williams College administration representatives, landlords who rent to off-campus students and the students themselves. The purpose of this collaborative is to make students aware of the quality of life issues within their neighborhoods and how they can help maintain them and still have a college related social life. Referred to as the “three strikes program” by some students, this project advises students about the consequences of repetitive police response to off campus housing and the consequences to tenants and property owners. This program is coordinated by Officer Shuan William of the Police Department and Director of Security, David Boyer, of Williams College.

- Partnering with the Council on Aging (COA) to assist the seniors of the community with quality of life issues.

Through the partnership with the Council on Aging, special attention is focused on the senior citizens of Williamstown. This partnership focuses on quality of life issues, crime prevention measures and identity thefts and scams. One such initiative continued in 2011 included the purchase of numerous Lock Box units that are utilized to secure a spare key at an individual’s home. In the event that a person may be locked inside their residence and needs emergency care, responding officers and emergency personnel can access the key from the Lock Box and make entry without causing any damage to the residence.

- K-9 Program



The Williamstown K-9 Unit, Michael Ziemba and Blue, responded to nineteen (19) calls for service in and around Williamstown requiring tracks to be performed, including but not limited to: searches for lost or missing children and adults, or searches for persons wanted by law enforcement for crimes committed or for questioning.

The K-9 Unit also participated in five (5) public service events which covered a range of topics from numerous informative presentations on the role and use of the K-9 to school children of varying ages, informative presentations and question and answer sessions,

demonstrations at various local parades and block parties, and presentation of D.A.R.E. awards to students graduating from the program.

Training is also an ongoing process for the K-9 Unit which, on average, trains about 12 hours each week. Most training is done locally in different scenarios of varying communities, usually in North Adams, Williamstown or Lanesborough. At various times, training time is also spent with the Schenectady County Sheriffs Department which has a larger K-9 Unit, whether it is at their facility, or here in our area.

Blue's day-to-day care and expenses are the sole responsibility of K-9 Handler, Officer Mike Ziemba. Medical expenses are supported entirely by donations from the community.

- Intern Program

The Williamstown Police Department continues to welcome in students from area high schools and colleges that have visions of pursuing a career in criminal justice. The intern program allows the students to shadow both the patrol and communications section to observe the job first hand. In 2011, students interned from Westfield State College, Berkshire Community College, Southern Vermont College and Mt. Anthony High School in Bennington, VT.

#### Juvenile Resource Officer

The Department continues to work closely with Mt. Greylock Regional High School, Williamstown Elementary School, and Pine Cobble School in both a supportive and educating role. This includes the teaching of DARE (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) where 2011 saw the graduation of 7 students from the Pine Cobble School. Officer Tania Hernandez also serves as a senior counselor for two weeks of summer ROPES (Respecting Other People; Encouraging Self Esteem) camp sponsored by the Williamstown, North Adams, Adams, Cheshire, and Lanesborough Police Departments, as well as the Town of Florida and the Berkshire County District Attorney's Office. During 2011, approximately 265 youths attended and completed the ROPES camps with 41 residing in Williamstown.

Officers also work closely with the Berkshire County Juvenile Court system to assist in meeting the needs of those charged with criminal activity. Officer Hernandez was instrumental in establishing the Police Department's Diversion Program for both the Juvenile and the District Courts. This program allows some individuals charged with criminal activity to seek alternative punishments at the show-cause level. While these punishments are usually more punitive than if a criminal complaint was to issue, the reward is that the individual is spared a permanent criminal record. Each case is looked at individually with certain guidelines that must be met.

#### Investigations

Sergeant Scott McGowan is the department's full-time investigator and presently maintains certifications in several areas of criminal investigation, a requirement for vital courtroom testimony. Sergeant McGowan also remains well-informed of updated criminal and case law which directly impacts police procedures by attending numerous training seminars throughout the year. Incidents reported to the department throughout the year at times can require specialized investigations which can take more than a month to complete depending

on type and complexity. These complex investigations require a dedicated investigation, and generally cannot be conducted by a uniformed police officer, due to numerous distractions while answering other calls for service.

In 2011, Sergeant McGowan handled several different investigations including 207 larceny incidents, 82 breaking & entering, four (4) rapes, three (3) indecent assaults & battery on a person over 14, two (2) indecent assaults and battery on a child under 14. 2011 also saw the resolution of many cases investigated by Sergeant McGowan, while several other cases presently await superior court proceedings.

In January of 2011, an adult male was sentenced to 5-7 years in state prison after guilty pleas were entered regarding several residential breaking & enterings in Williamstown and throughout Berkshire County. Sergeant McGowan worked with law enforcement colleagues throughout the Berkshire's to solve these crimes.

In May of 2011, an adult male was sentenced to 3-5 years in state prison after guilty pleas were entered for two (2) counts of rape and three (3) counts of indecent assault and battery on a person over age 14.

In September of 2011, an adult male was sentenced to 5-7 years in state prison after guilty pleas were entered for two (2) counts of rape of a child with force, one (1) count of indecent assault and battery, one (1) count of inducing a minor into sexual intercourse, one (1) count of assault and battery with a dangerous weapon and one (1) count of intimidation of a witness.

In October of 2011, an adult male was arrested and is presently being held at the Berkshire County House of Correction awaiting trial where he faces 45 felony charges in Massachusetts from residential breaking and enterings in Williamstown and other Berkshire County communities. Sergeant McGowan and law enforcement officers from Berkshire County worked determinedly to identify the responsible person and recover as much stolen property as possible before it was sold. As a result of the investigation, \$27,000 of stolen property was recovered and returned to the rightful owners.

#### *Berkshire County Drug Task Force*

Officer Shuan William is the department's representative assigned to the Berkshire County Drug Task Force (BCDTF). The Task Force is comprised of officers from full-time Berkshire County Police Departments, in addition to Troopers from the Massachusetts State Police. These officers work vigorously throughout the Berkshires to battle the distribution of illegal narcotics and the crimes associated with these criminal activities. Narcotic investigations are exceptionally challenging and can take months to complete, often placing officers in difficult and dangerous situations.

In March of 2011, Officer William attended training on cellular telephone investigation as part of a group sponsored by the BCDTF. Officers learned about the gathering and dissemination aspects of information that cellular telephones amass. This training was invaluable while conducting an electronic stalking investigation in town where a person received 242 threatening and harassing text messages from a phone that did not have a traditional wireless subscriber account. Because of this, a traditional subpoena was not

possible. Due to the training received, the identity of the person sending the illegal messages was exposed by Officer William after an extensive investigation. The identified person is presently awaiting trial.

In September of 2011, Officer William was assigned full time for two weeks with the BCDTF to assist with a triple homicide investigation involving three missing men from Pittsfield.

In November of 2011, Officer William executed a search warrant for possession of illegal narcotics in Williamstown. As result of the search warrant, two individuals were arrested for possessing marijuana, Hydromorphone (powder ecstasy) and numerous unknown pills seized from their residence.

### Traffic Enforcement

Traffic enforcement is a significant portion of the department's policing duties. The town is comprised of 86 miles of roadways, with the major routes being Routes 2, 7, and 43. When officers are not answering calls or completing paperwork, they are conducting enforcement on all of these roadways. Specific traffic complaints are received almost daily at the Department. With the recent technological updates on cell phone reception, more and more motorists are calling in the improper driving behavior of other motorists. Officers are dispatched to these areas in an attempt to locate the subject motor vehicle. A second type of complaint is when a resident or residents in a specific neighborhood call to report speeding motor vehicles in a specific section of town. To assist in strategizing these complaints, the Department deploys the speed monitoring trailer to record the number of vehicles, speed, direction and time of day to allow for a more specific enforcement action.

Through a grant funded by the Governor's Highway Safety Bureau, the Department participated in specialized mobilization patrols at different times of the year to solely enforce the traffic laws, with a strong emphasis placed on safety belt use and drunk driving. In 2011, the Department conducted an additional 38 hours of specialized patrols resulting in 118 additional traffic stops.

*On January 1, at approximately 0047 hours, Officer John McConnell was conducting a "Drunk Driving. Over the Limit. Under Arrest." Campaign and had a motor vehicle stopped in the eastbound lane of Main Street near Adams Road, when the mirror of another eastbound vehicle struck the mirror of McConnell's marked cruiser as it passed him. McConnell radioed ahead to Officer Craig Eichhammer and the vehicle was stopped. A subsequent investigation resulted in the arrest of the operator for Operating under the Influence of Alcohol.*

In 2011, the department responded to two hundred twenty-nine (229) motor vehicle crashes. Most of these crashes were minor in nature and occurred in parking lots or during on street parking. From the more significant crashes, thirty-six persons reported being injured and sadly there was one (1) fatality.



<b><u>Traffic Activity Summary</u></b>	<b><u>2009</u></b>	<b><u>2010</u></b>	<b><u>2011</u></b>
<b><u>Total Motor Vehicle Crashes</u></b>	243	211	229
Fatalities	1	0	1
Personal Injury Accidents	35	25	36
Pedestrian Involved Accidents	0	0	5
<b><u>Total Traffic Violations Issued</u></b>	3125	2565	2347
Motor Vehicle Stops	2696	2204	1943
Motor Vehicle Criminal Violations	221	196	185
Motor Vehicle Civil Violations	453	369	355
Motor Vehicle Warnings	2451	2000	1804
Operating Under Influence (OUI) Alcohol/Drugs	17	9	9
Speeding	1025	881	799
Parking Tickets Issued	2172	1583	1948

### **Communications Section**

Our Communications Section of the Police Department is the heart and soul of the Department. These are the people behind the scenes, simultaneously performing a multitude of tasks and never getting the credit that they truly deserve. The Communications Section dispatches for Williamstown Police, Williamstown Fire, Village Ambulance, and Williamstown Forest Warden while also being tasked with monitoring eight (8) Emergency 911 lines, three (3) standard emergency lines, and four (4) business phone lines. Also included in this section are all public record requests, burglar alarm bylaw monitoring and billing, and administrative duties to the Chief of Police.

The Communications Section is manned 24 hours a day, seven days a week. There is always a live body answering the phones and radio. In addition to the emergency services listed above, the Communications Section is responsible for after hour's contact of the Town and State Department of Public Works for adverse road conditions, and mutual aid requests for police, fire and EMS outside of Williamstown. Another responsibility of the Communications Section is to monitor any prisoners held in either of the holding cells.

In 2011, the Communications Section logged 15,745 calls for service, not including the everyday general business calls that do not amount to a call for service.

#### **2011 Calls for Service by Shift:**

<b>Shift</b>	<b>Calls</b>
Days / 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.	9042
Evenings / 3 p.m. to 11 p.m.	4437
Nights / 11 p.m. to 7 a.m.	2266
<b>Total Calls for Service</b>	<b>15745</b>

<b>CALL STATISTICS</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>
<b>Total Calls For Service</b>	<b>15168</b>	<b>15493</b>	<b>15745</b>
Criminal Arrests, Summonses & Protective Custodies	222	190	196
Murder	0	0	0
Robbery	0	0	0
Assaults	17	12	14
Breaking & Entering	31	66	22
Larceny / Theft	229	213	242
Auto Theft	1	1	0
Arson	2	1	0
Sexual Assault / Rape	8	4	18
Disturbances / Noise Complaints	89	136	189
Restraining Orders	8	23	21
Drunk Driving Arrests	16	9	9
Assist Citizens / Other Agencies & Motor Vehicle Lockouts	873	570	637
Medical Assistance	171	160	165
Burglar Alarms (Founded / False)	51 / 128	55 / 144	55 / 142
Animal / Wildlife Complaints	451	458	297
Village Ambulance Service	2826	2583	2921
Williamstown Fire Department	240	280	307
Williamstown Forest Warden's Department	36	42	27
Requests for Public Records	175	174	163
Burglar Alarm Permits Issued/Renewed	207	161	136
FID/LTC Applications	20	39	68

## **PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE REPORT**

### **J. Paul Dube, Clerk and Treasurer**

*The Williamstown Fire District is an independent governmental entity created by a 1912 act of the Legislature. The District is governed by a board of three commissioners elected at the District's annual meeting on the fourth Tuesday in May each year, at which time the District also sets its budget and its tax levy for the following year. All registered voters of Williamstown are entitled to attend the annual meeting at the District firehouse on Water Street.*



Left to Right: Firefighter Sean P. Peltier, Chief Craig A. Pedercini and Assistant Chief Michael E. Noyes

“Heroism feels and never reasons and is therefore always right.” Ralph Waldo Emerson said it; Mike Noyes and Sean Peltier empowered his words and proved them to be right. On May 25, the Williamstown Fire Department responded to a late night call reporting that a motor vehicle had hit a house on New Ashford Road resulting in fires in both the vehicle and the house. The first emergency responder to the scene was Firefighter Sean Peltier, who was returning from a call as a member of Village Ambulance Service. The presence of flames and odor of gasoline forced him to order bystanders to vacate the immediate area while he used fire extinguishers in an attempt to quell the car fire. Because of his actions, the next arriving firefighter, Second Assistant Chief Michael E. Noyes, a 36-year veteran of the force, was able to extricate the driver from the vehicle. Firefighter /Ambulance EMT Peltier later credited Noyes with saving the driver’s life, whereas it was through his efforts that the victim was kept alive long enough to be pulled from his automobile. Both men were honored at the November 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Firefighter of the Year Award Ceremony in Worcester, where Governor Deval Patrick, Fire Marshal Stephen Coan, and Secretary of Public Safety and Security Mary Elizabeth Heffernan presented awards to the recipients. In the words of Williamstown Fire Chief Craig A. Pedercini “these two individuals put themselves out on the line showing a tremendous amount of courage despite the risk of a potential explosion and the threat of severe personal injury. Thanks to the efforts of Firefighter Peltier and Assistant Chief Noyes, a man’s life was saved that night.” The house and vehicle fires continued for some five hours and were officially brought under control at 2:00 A.M. with a watch to last 7 hours. Being in an area beyond existing hydrants, mutual aid tankers were requested and provided by New Ashford, Hancock, Clarksburg, and Pownal, Vermont.

A second and more devastating accident occurred on June 29 at the base of the Taconic Trail when a tractor trailer hauling a box trailer crossed both the highway and a small brook ending up in the adjacent woods. Two men were in the cab of the truck, but only the passenger survived. Both the deceased driver and the occupant as well as fire department rescuers had to be decontaminated later because of the presence of stearic acid, a white substance that had spread throughout the area, eventually determined not to be a hazardous material although considered such in the Fire Chief's Emergency DOT Guide book. Twelve hours elapsed before the area was cleared with local firefighters, members of the area Haz-Mat team including Chief Robert Czerwinski of the Pittsfield Fire Department, Village Ambulance, Massachusetts State Police, a towing company, Department of Environmental Protection crew, and the State Medical Examiner all involved in specific activities.

Also destructive in terms of property loss, a conflagration July 6 on Blair Road reported as a barn and house fire, but described by the first arriving officer as a barn and camper involvement. Because of the location of the fire, the Fire Chief requested tankers from Clarksburg, New Ashford, Hancock, and Lanesboro, and from Pownal, Vermont. In the meantime, the Williamstown force established a master water supply using the Green River at the Blair Road bridge near the intersection of Route 43. Additional manpower from Pownal and Clarksburg was also sought. The North Adams Fire Department stood by in the Williamstown Station. Crews spent an hour knocking down the fire and protecting a large barn which was unscathed. It then became apparent that there were two wood-framed buildings and a motor home involved in the fire, all of which were completely eradicated. One structure consisted of a two-stall, two-story garage, the other a two-story barn that housed a vacant apartment. The motor home's charging system was the probable point of the fire's origination.

Two additional reported structure fires occurring in the year were also barn fires, one being in April on McLain Court, in the Sand Springs Road area, involving a wood-framed two-story building, the fire spreading to nearby woods and a two-stall garage. Because the barn was fully involved early on, mutual aid was requested from Pownal, Vermont, along with additional manpower from the Williamstown Forest Wardens department. Fortunately, gas containers that had been housed inside the barn were removed by the owner. The fire, which may have originated in a wood stove, completely destroyed the barn, a quarter of the nearby garage, and its contents.

A third barn fire broke out in November on White Oaks Road, this one totally devouring a two-story wood-framed barn and two empty apartments contained therein, the fire thought to have originated in a tractor-mower that had been used earlier to mulch leaves. Fire crews from Pownal, Vermont, and Clarksburg again provided tanker water and additional manpower to fight this blaze.

The year, however, will be remembered by the majority of townspeople as the year of Hurricane Irene and the continuing saga of The Spruces. Hurricane Irene came to town on August 19 bringing copious amounts of rain and wind resulting in river water cresting over thirteen feet causing a number of mobile homes in The Spruces to be inundated with as much as eighteen inches of water. Normally dry house basements were flooded with the fire department pumping out ten of at least twelve reported. Over 275 people were evacuated from The Spruces, residents who lost their homes, automobiles, and belongings. The

Department was on standby status for the duration of the storm which lasted for seventeen hours assisting in rescues and evacuations and answering innumerable alarms activated by the wind and rain.

Firemen continued to participate in formal classroom education and regular training drills to improve their proficiency and performance. Most notable this year was a Call/Volunteer Firefighting Training Program conducted at the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy which delivered standard recruit training curriculum, meeting national standards, on nights and weekends to accommodate the schedule of firefighters in suburban and rural areas, providing intensive classroom instruction, physical fitness training, firefighter skills training, and live firefighting practice, 180 hours of training in all. Among the graduates of this outstanding program were Williamstown Firemen Matthew C. Wilson, and Kevin A. Jolin.

Additional courses taken by local personnel, provided by the Department of Fire Services, the National Fire Academy, and other agencies included Protective Breathing Search and Rescue; Vehicle Extrication; Rope Rescue: Technician level; Firefighter I/II; Hazardous Material Operational Level; Multiagency Coordination System; Public Information Systems; Resource Management; Intrastate Mutual Aid and Introduction; Hazardous Materials Response Across the Continuum; Hazardous Materials Refresher; Berkshire County Mass Fatality Table Top Exercise; and "After the Academy; Lessons from the Street;" along with in-house training in Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation/Automated External Defibrillation and First Responder/First Aid.

Another 239 calls made in the year were in answer to activated fire alarms, carbon monoxide investigations, smoke calls, flooded basements, motor vehicle accidents, and a variety of other categories.

Regarding Department members; every year brings changes, primarily because we are in a college town, and Williams students contribute much in time and talent. We are grateful for the services of Jamal M. Jefferson who graduated in June of 2011 and is no longer on the roster. On the plus side, we take pleasure in the addition of two "gownies," John V. Hoover and S. Teddy Amdur. Two "townies" have also been added to the force, namely Greg V. King and Patrick H. Banks. And with pride we announce the promotion of Daniel J. Bryant to the vacant position of Fourth Assistant Chief Engineer.

237 permits were issued by Chief Pedercini for smoke/carbon monoxide detector installations, liquefied petroleum gas storage, use of torches, petroleum tank removals, oil burner installations, oil line replacement, tank truck inspections, kitchen hood suppression systems, floor refinishing, fire protection systems, and fuel oil storage.

The search continues for a site for the proposed new fire station. The present station, built in 1950, although in good condition, is undersized and under equipped. Expansion is impossible on the present property. A desirable location, near the center of town, must be of sufficient acreage to accommodate men and equipment and future expansion. The Maguire Group, a well-known architectural/engineering firm, is assisting the Prudential Committee and engineers in the search.

Elected officers of the Williamstown Fire District include J. Paul Dube as Moderator, Clerk, and Treasurer of the District. His term expires in 2012. Elected Prudential Committee members and term expirations are Edward M. McGowan, 2012, Edward B. Briggs, 2013, and John J. Notsley, 2014.

Appointed officers are Chief Craig A. Pedercini, First Assistant Engineer Robert E. Briggs, Second Assistant Engineer Michael E. Noyes, Third Assistant Engineer Richard F. Daniels, and Fourth Assistant Engineer Daniel J. Bryant.

<b>Prudential Committee: Report of the Treasurer</b> <i>For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2011</i>		
JULY 1, 2010 - BALANCE ON HAND IN TREASURY		\$520,098.18
RECEIPTS:		
Town of Williamstown (Taxes collected)	508,430.85	
Williams College	27,634.92	
Inspection Fees	5,485.00	
Bank North (checking)	77.65	
South Adams Savings Bank (Money Market)	1,785.08	
Bank North (Money Market)	948.94	
VFIS Insurance	1589.00	
Donation	250.00	\$546,201.44
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		\$1,066,299.62
EXPENDITURES:		
Street Lighting	76,582.30	
Water Rents	1,650.00	
Heat, Light, Power	4,803.26	
Pay of Firemen	46,125.00	
Insurance	50,360.55	
FICA Tax	5,968.92	
Communications	7,505.51	
Dispatch Services	50,333.75	
Salaries	81,325.36	
Services & Supplies	8,000.00	
Education & Training	14,875.03	
Maintenance & Operation	61,652.72	
Berkshire County Retirement	26,526.00	
Audit	8,000.00	
Legal	299.50	
	-----	
	444,007.90	
Article 6, Stabilization	39,000.00	
Article 7, District's share of grants	1,773.18	

Feasibility Study	1,190.00	\$485,971.08
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June 30, 2011, BALANCE ON HAND IN TREASURY		\$580,328.54
Stabilization Fund as of July 1, 2010	244,061.27	
Additions	39,000.00	
Interest	2,270.03	
Balance as of June 30, 2011		\$285,331.30

Respectfully Submitted,  
J. Paul Dube

## SELECTMEN

**Thomas E. Sheldon, Chair**

The year 2011 will be remembered as one of the most challenging in the Town's history. Tropical Storm Irene assured that on one fateful day in late August; more on that later in this report.

As always, the Board of Selectman was called on to address both routine and more consequential matters. The Board made appointments to Town boards and committees, issued and renewed licenses to scores of businesses reviewed and approved the warrants for Town Meeting, sanctioned fund raising events that affected roadways and assessed the performance of the Town Manager. The Board also worked to secure a new contract for cable television service, including additional support for public access television through Willinet.

The Board's focus in the early part of 2011 was on the request from Beaver Wood energy to develop a biomass plan in Pownal, Vermont. The Board's legal efforts to ensure answers to questions about the plant's environmental and traffic impacts were rewarded when the request was withdrawn.

The Selectmen conducted an unprecedented hearing on a series of dog nuisance complaints resulting in removal of animals that were harming a neighborhood's peace and perceived safety.

The Board also conducted four alcohol compliance hearings that led to one license suspension and three letters of warning. The 2011 compliance rate of restaurants and package stores was 89%, which is slightly lower than 2009 and 2010. Accordingly, the Board asked Police Chief Kyle Johnson to double the number of compliance checks and decided to develop a policy that would guide decision making about penalties for compliance check violations in the future.

The Board of Selectmen collaborated with the State Department of Transportation to improve the visibility and signage for the truck ramp at the base of the Taconic Trail (Route 2). This followed a fatal crash where the reasons for the truck driver not using the ramp were not clear.

The Board was delighted when Williamstown was designated a Green Community by the Commonwealth and received a grant of \$142,000. The Board was also pleased by the prudent management of the Town's finances by the Town Manager and staff, which enabled a continuing high quality of service despite diminishing State aid.

The primary challenge of 2011 was posed by Tropical Storm Irene which flooded some sections of Town and had an especially devastating impact on The Spruces mobile home community, home to nearly 300 people and a number of pets. All residents were displaced for a while, some for months, and approximately 70% of the homes were lost forever.

Such events test the fiber of a community and Williamstown responded with energy, creativity and empathy. Immediate relief for families was provided by the faith community, civic organizations, businesses, and the Spruces Tenants Association. Town officials and staff worked long and hard, in partnership with Commonwealth and Federal agencies, to assist residents in getting information in order to make decisions as well as to enable their safe return to their homes, where possible.

One of the most disturbing elements of the flooding was the loss of about one-half of the affordable housing in Town. This has triggered a redoubling of efforts to identify sites and funding for low cost housing, both for the elderly and for residents (and would-be residents) more generally. This will be a high priority for the next few years.

The Board of Selectmen is grateful beyond words for the splendid work of the Town Manager and his team in the event-filled past year. We are also proud to be part of a community that cares so deeply about the well-being of its residents, especially those with the greatest needs.

## **SIGN COMMISSION**

### **Curtis Scott, Chair**

The Town of Williamstown Sign Commission is tasked with administering the Code of the Town of Williamstown, Chapter 53, Signs (the Sign Bylaw), consistent with the character and appearance of the area for which the sign is requested. Signs may be of a permanent nature, (for new businesses, institutions or activities) or may be temporary for specific events or functions. Current Sign Commissioners are: Chair Curtis Scott, Judy Giamborino, Timothy Hamilton, and Anna Singleton.

The Sign Inspector can issue any sign which fully complies with the Sign Bylaw; any deviation from the bylaw requires Sign Commission approval. In granting Special Permits, the Commission has wide discretion in what will be allowed or modified in the application. The Sign Inspector is the enforcing authority under the bylaw. Fines may be assessed under the non-criminal disposition provisions of the Code of the Town of Williamstown.

The Sign Bylaw, in its introduction, states:

A. The Williamstown envisioned under this chapter is one with major patterns of use and general appearance little changed from today, but with greater opportunities within the



community for a broader range of diversity of citizens and businesses; a town not only undamaged by change but made better through it.

B. Economic growth appropriate to Williamstown's character is actively sought, not as an end to itself, but as a means of broadening the diversity of opportunity in Williamstown, in mm supporting a rich and diverse community life and population. There is room enough for all the development which realistically the town can expect to experience without the defacing of its special assets and places, including both natural and man-made features, mini vistas and historic monuments.

C. The basic form of Williamstown is that of a classic New England town, with a strong central village sharply contrasting with and benefiting from the openness of the surrounding lands. The present arrangement works well for almost everyone. It provides wonderful living possibilities within easy walk of both central services and open lands. It organizes development in an easily serviced way. It creates a visually rich and satisfying community character.

D. There is little doubt Williamstown residents intend the policies of the Sign Commission to enhance these qualities. Such conflicts within the community as the Sign Commission may encounter should be reconciled with this public vision in mind. It is instructed to use incentives and rewards wherever possible, as a way of implementing sign policy. However, the following guidelines are intended to be as clear and unambiguous as possible:

- (1) The primary function of on-premise signs is to index the environment to tell people where they can find what. Selling is a subordinate purpose.
  - (2) Signs should be expressive of the individual proprietor's identity.
  - (3) Signs should be appropriate to the type of activity to which they pertain.
  - (4) Signs should be compatible with the visual character of the area surrounding them. Carved signs are compatible in all areas, and this chapter encourages their use.
  - (5) Signs should be legible in the circumstances in which they are seen.
- Using its discretion, consistent with the bylaw, the Commission seeks to follows these guidelines in rendering its decisions.

The Commission met 11 times in 2011, and 109 sign permits were issued either by the Commission or its Sign Inspector, Andrew Groff.

**TOWN ACCOUNTANT**  
**Donna Estes**

<div> <div>Town Accountant</div> <div>Annual Report of Budgets &amp; Expenditures</div> <div>For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2011</div> </div>								
	Original	Revised	FY10		Total		FY11	
Account	Budget	Budget	Encumber	Receipts	Available	Expended	Encumber	Balance
<b><u>Appropriations - General</u></b>								
Selectmen	6,665.00	6,665.00	0.00	0.00	6,665.00	4,764.63	0.00	1,900.37
Town Manager	225,261.00	216,811.00	4,637.00	0.00	221,448.00	221,140.73	0.00	307.27
Insurance	112,650.00	108,650.00	0.00	0.00	108,650.00	83,510.47	0.00	25,139.53
Finance Committee	749.00	749.00	0.00	0.00	749.00	173.00	0.00	576.00
Reserve Fund	50,000.00	50,000.00	0.00	0.00	50,000.00	0.00	0.00	50,000.00
Finance Director	227,688.00	228,688.00	3,198.00	0.00	231,886.00	219,948.22	0.00	11,937.78
Assessor	163,698.00	136,400.00	6,000.00	0.00	142,400.00	142,332.05	0.00	67.95
Treasurer-Collector	155,556.00	149,056.00	0.00	0.00	149,056.00	147,964.75	0.00	1,091.25
Town Counsel	20,000.00	28,450.00	0.00	0.00	28,450.00	28,406.12	0.00	43.88
Management Information Systems	18,657.00	61,655.00	47,451.23	0.00	109,106.23	93,571.70	15,516.05	18.48
Town Clerk	76,743.00	76,743.00	0.00	0.00	76,743.00	75,764.14	0.00	978.86
Board of Registrars	19,288.00	19,288.00	0.00	0.00	19,288.00	12,365.52	0.00	6,922.48
Conservation Commission	2,884.00	2,884.00	0.00	0.00	2,884.00	2,790.36	0.00	93.64
Planning Board	2,185.00	2,185.00	0.00	0.00	2,185.00	1,350.59	0.00	834.41
Zoning Board	3,900.00	3,500.00	0.00	0.00	3,500.00	2,362.30	0.00	1,137.70
Historical Commission	500.00	500.00	0.00	0.00	500.00	216.78	0.00	283.22
Chamber of Commerce	24,292.00	24,292.00	0.00	0.00	24,292.00	24,292.00	0.00	0.00
Facilities Management	190,090.00	190,090.00	4,709.63	0.00	194,799.63	177,759.60	9,320.00	7,720.03
Milne Library Improvements	0.00	0.00	3,921.73	0.00	3,921.73	0.00	0.00	3,921.73
Police Department	1,049,166.00	1,058,123.00	1,045.00	0.00	1,059,168.00	1,058,024.51	1,000.00	143.49
Police Station Design Development	0.00	0.00	18,000.00	0.00	18,000.00	0.00	18,000.00	0.00
Dispatch Services	201,335.00	192,342.00	0.00	0.00	192,342.00	192,286.80	0.00	55.20
Building Inspector	275,055.00	275,455.00	21,332.00	0.00	296,787.00	294,128.78	29.00	2,629.22
Sealer of Weights & Measures	3,391.00	3,391.00	0.00	0.00	3,391.00	1,716.92	0.00	1,674.08
Emergency Management	1,858.00	1,858.00	0.00	0.00	1,858.00	1,833.27	0.00	24.73
Animal Control Officer	27,300.00	27,300.00	0.00	0.00	27,300.00	26,345.07	0.00	954.93
Forest Warden	5,991.00	6,027.00	0.00	0.00	6,027.00	6,026.12	0.00	0.88
Director of Public Works	149,539.00	149,539.00	1,566.21	0.00	151,105.21	143,373.22	0.00	7,731.99
DPW Facility Photovoltaic System	0.00	0.00	12,106.49	0.00	12,106.49	0.00	12,106.49	0.00
Highway Department	1,142,886.00	1,142,886.00	206,704.32	0.00	1,349,590.32	993,116.68	344,860.09	11,613.55
Road and Culvert Repairs	0.00	0.00	78,499.07	0.00	78,499.07	78,418.60	0.00	80.47
Latham Street Culvert	0.00	0.00	211,152.55	0.00	211,152.55	0.00	211,152.55	0.00

Sidewalk & Curb Replacement - North & Main	0.00	0.00	8,901.24	0.00	8,901.24	8,901.24	0.00	0.00
Water Street Sidewalk Replacement	0.00	0.00	88,596.00	0.00	88,596.00	0.00	88,596.00	0.00
Adams Road Resurfacing	0.00	0.00	23,281.68	0.00	23,281.68	12,686.84	0.00	10,594.84
Sidewalk Repair - Spring Street	20,000.00	20,000.00	0.00	0.00	20,000.00	20,000.00	0.00	0.00
Engineering - No. Hoosac Road	25,000.00	25,000.00	0.00	0.00	25,000.00	13,265.00	11,735.00	0.00
Replace 1999 Intl Dump Truck	140,000.00	140,000.00	0.00	0.00	140,000.00	138,705.00	0.00	1,295.00
Replace 1998 Trackless Sidewalk Plow	108,000.00	108,000.00	0.00	0.00	108,000.00	92,008.25	0.00	15,991.75
Replace 2002 Ford Dump Truck	60,000.00	60,000.00	0.00	0.00	60,000.00	59,976.00	0.00	24.00
Replace 1986 3-ton Roller	31,500.00	31,500.00	0.00	0.00	31,500.00	31,100.00	0.00	400.00
Snow and Ice Control	163,308.00	163,308.00	0.00	0.00	163,308.00	380,684.71	0.00	(217,376.71)
Parks and Cemetery	254,279.00	254,279.00	27,045.71	0.00	281,324.71	239,553.28	24,144.65	17,626.78
Replace 2002 Chevrolet 4x4 Pickup	28,000.00	28,000.00	0.00	0.00	28,000.00	0.00	28,000.00	0.00
Cemetery Roads Repair	62,613.00	62,613.00	0.00	0.00	62,613.00	22,538.61	40,074.39	0.00
Sherman Burbank Chapel	6,290.00	6,290.00	0.00	0.00	6,290.00	4,033.24	0.00	2,256.76
Forestry Department	41,859.00	41,859.00	15,175.00	0.00	57,034.00	46,202.50	10,450.00	381.50
Health Department	79,284.00	79,284.00	0.00	0.00	79,284.00	79,030.45	0.00	253.55
Council on Aging	218,469.00	192,169.00	6,203.00	0.00	198,372.00	190,272.25	6,203.00	1,896.75
Veterans Benefits	39,415.00	65,715.00	0.00	0.00	65,715.00	45,678.18	20,000.00	36.82
Library	473,556.00	473,556.00	0.00	0.00	473,556.00	473,556.00	0.00	0.00
Recreation Commission	14,347.00	14,347.00	0.00	0.00	14,347.00	8,783.11	0.00	5,563.89
Youth Center	65,096.00	65,096.00	0.00	0.00	65,096.00	65,096.00	0.00	0.00
Veterans Graves and Holidays	3,090.00	3,090.00	0.00	0.00	3,090.00	1,414.94	0.00	1,675.06
General Debt Service	488,850.00	496,850.00	0.00	0.00	496,850.00	493,266.64	0.00	3,583.36
Employees Benefits	925,991.00	911,291.00	100,845.95	0.00	1,012,136.95	885,511.86	121,829.00	4,796.09
Transfers to other Funds	25,000.00	25,500.00	0.00	0.00	25,500.00	45,031.79	0.00	(19,531.79)
Local Public Schools	5,261,543.00	5,261,543.00	418,172.99	0.00	5,679,715.99	5,183,877.84	479,646.72	16,191.43
Mt Greylock Regional School	4,600,521.00	4,600,521.00	0.00	0.00	4,600,521.00	4,600,520.40	0.00	0.60
Northern Berk Vocational School	239,084.00	239,084.00	0.00	0.00	239,084.00	224,161.80	0.00	14,922.20
Total Appropriated - General	17,532,422.00	17,532,422.00	1,308,544.80	0.00	18,840,966.80	17,399,838.86	1,442,662.94	(1,535.00)

	Original	Revised	FY10		Total		FY11	
Account	Budget	Budget	Encumber	Receipts	Available	Expended	Encumber	Balance
<b>Appropriations - Enterprise</b>								
Transfer Station	205,565.00	205,565.00	8,490.00	0.00	214,055.00	188,177.31	0.00	25,877.69
Sewer Department	329,386.00	329,386.00	44,877.65	0.00	374,263.65	401,983.68	44,877.65	(27,597.68)
Pump Station Reparis	0.00	0.00	20,000.00	0.00	20,000.00	0.00	20,000.00	0.00
Replace 1994 Utility Van	25,000.00	25,000.00	0.00	0.00	25,000.00	25,000.00	0.00	0.00
Sewer Debt Service	147,903.00	147,903.00	0.00	0.00	147,903.00	122,903.46	0.00	24,999.54
Damaged Property Reimbursements	0.00	0.00	317.88	0.00	317.88	0.00	317.88	0.00
Rate Relief Grant	0.00	0.00	35,846.00	0.00	35,846.00	0.00	35,846.00	0.00

Ritter Sewer Line Gift	0.00	0.00	1,412.10	0.00	1,412.10	0.00	1,412.10	0.00
Green River Stabilization Grant	0.00	0.00	15,992.82	0.00	15,992.82	0.00	15,992.82	0.00
Transfers to General Fund	82,219.00	82,219.00	0.00	0.00	82,219.00	82,219.40	0.00	(0.40)
Transfers to Reserve	52,097.00	52,097.00	0.00	0.00	52,097.00	0.00	0.00	52,097.00
Hoosac Water Quality District	598,545.00	598,545.00	0.00	0.00	598,545.00	579,840.46	0.00	18,704.54
Water Department	596,008.00	596,008.00	30,560.75	0.00	626,568.75	427,187.09	44,175.11	155,206.55
SCADA System Update	0.00	0.00	69,438.74	0.00	69,438.74	1,865.00	67,573.74	0.00
Well 1 Rehabilitation Engineering	0.00	0.00	74,145.70	0.00	74,145.70	0.00	74,145.70	0.00
Main Street Water Main Construction	0.00	0.00	349,612.39	0.00	349,612.39	228,184.84	121,427.55	0.00
Water Meter Replacements	40,000.00	40,000.00	0.00	0.00	40,000.00	40,000.00	0.00	0.00
Water Debt Service	370,900.00	370,900.00	0.00	0.00	370,900.00	345,901.34	0.00	24,998.66
Damaged Property Reimbursements	0.00	0.00	486.05	0.00	486.05	0.00	0.00	486.05
Transfers to General Fund	117,081.00	117,081.00	0.00	0.00	117,081.00	117,081.00	0.00	0.00
Total Appropriated - General	2,564,704.00	2,564,704.00	651,180.08	0.00	3,215,884.08	2,560,343.58	425,768.55	229,771.95
<b><u>Tax Rate Assessments</u></b>								
State Assessments	0.00	35,054.00	0.00	0.00	35,054.00	45,043.00	0.00	(9,989.00)
County Assessments	0.00	23,483.00	0.00	0.00	23,483.00	23,483.00	0.00	0.00
Other Assessments	0.00	59,056.00	0.00	0.00	59,056.00	5,356.42	0.00	53,699.58
Total Tax Rate Assessments	0.00	117,593.00	0.00	0.00	117,593.00	73,882.42	0.00	43,710.58
<b><u>Borrowed Funds</u></b>								
Cemetery Building	0.00	0.00	1,778.55	0.00	1,778.55	0.00	1,778.55	0.00
Inflow and Infiltration	0.00	0.00	239,111.31	0.00	239,111.31	0.00	239,111.31	0.00
Well #1 Replacement	0.00	0.00	495,563.16	0.00	495,563.16	14,824.47	480,738.69	0.00
Phase II and Cole Field Landfill Closure	0.00	0.00	78,495.67	0.00	78,495.67	0.00	78,495.67	0.00
Total Borrowed Funds	0.00	0.00	814,948.69	0.00	814,948.69	14,824.47	800,124.22	0.00

	Original	Revised	FY10		Total		FY11	
Account	Budget	Budget	Encumber	Receipts	Available	Expended	Encumber	Balance
<b><u>Special Revenue Funds</u></b>								
School Lunch Revolving Fund	0.00	0.00	0.00	93,483.14	93,483.14	93,483.14	0.00	0.00
Highway Flood Control - Green River	0.00	0.00	474.60	0.00	474.60	0.00	474.60	0.00
Highway - Cole Ave Bridge	0.00	0.00	517.74	0.00	517.74	0.00	517.74	0.00
Highway - Linear Park Bridge	0.00	0.00	4,044.12	0.00	4,044.12	0.00	4,044.12	0.00
Highway - Syndicate Stabilization Grant	0.00	0.00	5,243.80	0.00	5,243.80	0.00	5,243.80	0.00
Highway - Chapter 90	0.00	0.00	(66,800.00)	0.00	(66,800.00)	9,352.00	(76,152.00)	0.00
Highway - Roaring Brook Grant	0.00	0.00	6,575.96	0.00	6,575.96	0.00	6,575.96	0.00
School - SPED Professional Development	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
School - Title II - Math & Science	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,444.00	2,444.00	12,154.11	(9,710.11)	0.00
School - Early Literacy Gap	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,875.00	1,875.00	4,762.78	(2,887.78)	0.00

School - Quality Kindergarten Grant	0.00	0.00	0.00	29,000.00	29,000.00	29,000.00	0.00	0.00
School - Circuit Breaker	0.00	0.00	149,509.31	32,569.00	182,078.31	55,006.91	127,071.40	0.00
School - School Choice	0.00	0.00	386,923.43	208,424.00	595,347.43	145,659.99	449,687.44	0.00
School - Early Childhood - WEE	0.00	0.00	0.00	16,029.35	16,029.35	8,293.00	7,736.35	0.00
School - ARRA Title I	0.00	0.00	90.00	1,068.00	1,158.00	9,200.00	(8,042.00)	0.00
School - Title I	0.00	0.00	0.00	7,354.00	7,354.00	35,768.00	(28,414.00)	0.00
School - P.L. 94-142	0.00	0.00	0.00	78,875.00	78,875.00	104,101.21	(25,226.21)	0.00
School - ARRA P.L. 94-142	0.00	0.00	0.00	6,662.00	6,662.00	66,620.98	(59,958.98)	0.00
School - ARRA Early Childhood SPED	0.00	0.00	1,838.25	132.25	1,970.50	499.00	1,471.50	0.00
School - ARRA Education Jobs Grant	0.00	0.00	0.00	39,402.00	39,402.00	39,402.00	0.00	0.00
CDBG Housing - Steinerfilm	0.00	0.00	15,650.40	0.00	15,650.40	0.00	15,650.40	0.00
Community Preservation Act Fund	0.00	0.00	761,415.80	260,323.57	1,021,739.37	604,578.34	417,161.03	0.00
Selectmen - Cable Technology Fund	0.00	0.00	5,874.71	0.00	5,874.71	0.00	5,874.71	0.00
Selectmen - COOL Grant	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Town Clerk - Polling Reimbursement	0.00	0.00	5,630.77	774.00	6,404.77	6,137.00	267.77	0.00
ConCom - Wetlands Fees	0.00	0.00	20,698.88	4,775.00	25,473.88	488.00	24,985.88	0.00
ConCom - Stone Hill Stewardship Grant	0.00	0.00	2,805.00	0.00	2,805.00	0.00	2,805.00	0.00
Econ Develop - FmHA Exec Park	0.00	0.00	1,617.95	0.00	1,617.95	0.00	1,617.95	0.00
Econ Develop - Bike Trail Gift	0.00	0.00	5,416.15	0.00	5,416.15	0.00	5,416.15	0.00
Econ Develop - Canoe Access Facility Grant	0.00	0.00	5,500.00	0.00	5,500.00	0.00	5,500.00	0.00
Pub Property - LRS Oil Tank Grant	0.00	0.00	(2,787.50)	0.00	(2,787.50)	0.00	(2,787.50)	0.00
Pub Property - Sale of Property	0.00	0.00	235,580.00	0.00	235,580.00	0.00	235,580.00	0.00
Police - Support Fund	0.00	0.00	15,099.44	5,250.00	20,349.44	0.00	20,349.44	0.00
Police - Drug Task Force	0.00	0.00	12,995.12	7,470.82	20,465.94	6,572.33	13,893.61	0.00
Police - Forfeiture Funds	0.00	0.00	2,727.37	773.51	3,500.88	0.00	3,500.88	0.00
Police - WalMart Funds	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Police - Defibrillator Gift	0.00	0.00	714.54	0.00	714.54	0.00	714.54	0.00
Police - School Resource Officer Gift	0.00	0.00	11,765.00	0.00	11,765.00	3,189.18	8,575.82	0.00
Police - Community Policing Grant	0.00	0.00	(0.00)	0.00	(0.00)	0.00	(0.00)	0.00
Police - Bullet Proof Vest Grant	0.00	0.00	3,484.00	399.50	3,883.50	799.00	3,084.50	0.00
Police - COPS Fast Grant	0.00	0.00	14,026.79	0.00	14,026.79	0.00	14,026.79	0.00
Police - Public Safety & Equipment Grant	0.00	0.00	3,116.99	0.00	3,116.99	0.00	3,116.99	0.00
Police - Damaged Property	0.00	0.00	1,770.44	0.00	1,770.44	0.00	1,770.44	0.00
Police - K9 Gifts	0.00	0.00	10,804.71	0.00	10,804.71	0.00	10,804.71	0.00
Police - E911 Training Grant	0.00	0.00	4,087.58	6,889.57	10,977.15	3,355.68	7,621.47	0.00
Police - Console Grant	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Police - REACH Triad Grant	0.00	0.00	3,119.36	0.00	3,119.36	656.02	2,463.34	0.00
Police - Public Health Incentive Grant	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Police - Highway Safety Grant	0.00	0.00	9,588.03	3,600.00	13,188.03	3,650.38	9,537.65	0.00
Police - COPS MORE Grant	0.00	0.00	9,567.64	0.00	9,567.64	5,097.67	4,469.97	0.00

Police - Systems Improvement Grant	0.00	0.00	0.00	23,273.10	23,273.10	23,273.10	0.00	0.00
DIS - Damaged Property	0.00	0.00	458.17	0.00	458.17	0.00	458.17	0.00
Civil Defense - Emergency Management Grant	0.00	0.00	10,188.74	0.00	10,188.74	0.00	10,188.74	0.00
Civil Defense - Emergency Preparedness	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,000.00	3,000.00	0.00	3,000.00	0.00
Animal Control - Operations Gift	0.00	0.00	114.13	0.00	114.13	0.00	114.13	0.00
DPW - Photovoltaic Grant	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
DPW - Clark Sidewalk Gift	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
DPW - Damaged Prop	0.00	0.00	2,934.56	0.00	2,934.56	0.00	2,934.56	0.00
Parks - Litchfield Beautification Gift	0.00	0.00	2,000.00	0.00	2,000.00	0.00	2,000.00	0.00
Parks - Damaged Prop	0.00	0.00	2,596.45	2,259.24	4,855.69	2,714.55	2,141.14	0.00
Parks - FEMA MLP Grant	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Parks - Sherman Chapel Gifts	0.00	0.00	25.00	25.00	50.00	0.00	50.00	0.00
Forestry - Gift	0.00	0.00	1,689.50	0.00	1,689.50	0.00	1,689.50	0.00
Forestry - Damaged Prop	0.00	0.00	1,500.00	0.00	1,500.00	0.00	1,500.00	0.00
COA - Activity Fund	0.00	0.00	6,949.77	5,612.26	12,562.03	6,254.26	6,307.77	0.00
COA - Formula Grant	0.00	0.00	2,818.11	13,339.56	16,157.67	15,657.81	499.86	0.00
COA - Damaged Property Reimbursement	0.00	0.00	97.20	0.00	97.20	0.00	97.20	0.00
COA - CPR Grant	0.00	0.00	165.00	0.00	165.00	140.00	25.00	0.00
COA - Public Health Incentive Grant	0.00	0.00	300.00	0.00	300.00	34.20	265.80	0.00
COA - Incentive Grant	0.00	0.00	269.80	0.00	269.80	248.90	20.90	0.00
Lib - Museum Pass Gift	0.00	0.00	0.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	0.00	10,000.00	0.00
Lib - Gifts for Books	0.00	0.00	793.03	4,974.91	5,767.94	4,793.87	974.07	0.00
Lib - Damaged Prop	0.00	0.00	2,566.74	670.95	3,237.69	0.00	3,237.69	0.00
Lib - LIG/MEG Grant	0.00	0.00	0.00	10,771.16	10,771.16	10,771.16	0.00	0.00
Lib - Operations Gift	0.00	0.00	0.00	29,385.00	29,385.00	27,925.70	1,459.30	0.00
Lib - Design Grant	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Recreation - Revolving Acct	0.00	0.00	3,600.39	0.00	3,600.39	0.00	3,600.39	0.00
Recreation - Skateboard Park Gift	0.00	0.00	436.59	0.00	436.59	0.00	436.59	0.00
Benefits - BHG Health Coordinator	0.00	0.00	2,000.00	1,932.00	3,932.00	1,824.35	2,107.65	0.00
School - Field Trips	0.00	0.00	328.00	4,001.49	4,329.49	2,892.57	1,436.92	0.00
School - ARRA Grant	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,781.00	4,781.00	4,781.00	0.00	0.00
School - 5th Grade Fund	0.00	0.00	0.00	701.88	701.88	0.00	701.88	0.00
School - Outdoor Classroom Gifts	0.00	0.00	1,913.35	3,360.60	5,273.95	3,368.31	1,905.64	0.00
School - Computer Tech Gifts	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
School - Adventures in Learning Gifts	0.00	0.00	8,703.62	4,176.00	12,879.62	4,556.15	8,323.47	0.00
School - Sunrise Spanish	0.00	0.00	8,238.28	3,625.00	11,863.28	8,025.00	3,838.28	0.00
School - Library Books	0.00	0.00	17,089.85	2,402.42	19,492.27	0.00	19,492.27	0.00
School - PTO Educ Materials	0.00	0.00	6,293.91	18,542.14	24,836.05	7,537.10	17,298.95	0.00
School - Math Institute	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
School - Teacher Salary Gift	0.00	0.00	27,131.18	4,300.00	31,431.18	1,750.40	29,680.78	0.00
School - Music Gift	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,813.00	3,813.00	1,853.03	1,959.97	0.00

School - Staff Development	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
School - After School WISH Program	0.00	0.00	1,579.37	0.00	1,579.37	0.00	1,579.37	0.00
School - 6th Grade Fund	0.00	0.00	4,747.78	17,639.33	22,387.11	14,533.56	7,853.55	0.00
County Dog Tax Refund	0.00	0.00	19,648.00	0.00	19,648.00	0.00	19,648.00	0.00
Library - Revolving Fund	0.00	0.00	4,893.57	8,705.00	13,598.57	8,735.86	4,862.71	0.00
School - Green School Grant	0.00	0.00	19,734.72	0.00	19,734.72	1,148.00	18,586.72	0.00
School - Oil Tank Removal Grant	0.00	0.00	5,000.00	0.00	5,000.00	0.00	5,000.00	0.00
School - Tuition	0.00	0.00	154,151.63	96,433.24	250,584.87	0.00	250,584.87	0.00
School - Summer School Tuition	0.00	0.00	4,116.16	0.00	4,116.16	2,888.24	1,227.92	0.00
School - Transportation Fees	0.00	0.00	9,457.51	0.00	9,457.51	8,868.64	588.87	0.00
School - Rental	0.00	0.00	28,955.67	7,140.72	36,096.39	1,298.28	34,798.11	0.00
Total Special Revenue	0.00	0.00	2,012,172.16	1,092,438.71	3,104,610.87	1,413,700.76	1,690,910.11	0.00

	Original	Revised	FY10		Total		FY11	
Account	Budget	Budget	Encumber	Receipts	Available	Expended	Encumber	Balance
<b>Trust Funds</b>								
Margaret Lindley	0.00	0.00	2,412.32	21.53	2,433.85	0.00	2,433.85	0.00
Conservation Commission	0.00	0.00	5,685.75	587.79	6,273.54	0.00	6,273.54	0.00
Helen Renzi School	0.00	0.00	8,240.05	71.76	8,311.81	289.59	8,022.22	0.00
Recreation Revolving Fund	0.00	0.00	13,055.28	163.14	13,218.42	0.00	13,218.42	0.00
Sherman Burbank	0.00	0.00	10,147.38	32,058.30	42,205.68	16,984.00	25,221.68	0.00
Torrey Woods	0.00	0.00	2,876.01	35.94	2,911.95	0.00	2,911.95	0.00
Alma Morey	0.00	0.00	21,272.28	265.87	21,538.15	0.00	21,538.15	0.00
Perpetual Care Principal	0.00	0.00	321,221.13	6,050.00	327,271.13	0.00	327,271.13	0.00
Municipal Scholarship	0.00	0.00	41,096.61	4,613.81	45,710.42	8,500.00	37,210.42	0.00
Library Annual Fund	0.00	0.00	84,147.90	21,598.28	105,746.18	32,746.90	72,999.28	0.00
Library Carpenter Fund	0.00	0.00	9,973.20	88.61	10,061.81	230.83	9,830.98	0.00
Stabilization Fund	0.00	0.00	665,777.45	30,956.97	696,734.42	0.00	696,734.42	0.00
Perpetual Care Income	0.00	0.00	20,040.09	3,144.81	23,184.90	9,000.00	14,184.90	0.00
Sale of Lots	0.00	0.00	21,286.86	700.00	21,986.86	0.00	21,986.86	0.00
Bullock Forest	0.00	0.00	103,884.49	1,298.26	105,182.75	0.00	105,182.75	0.00
Botsford - Library Trust	0.00	0.00	82,686.47	738.23	83,424.70	0.00	83,424.70	0.00
Botsford - House of Local History Trust	0.00	0.00	42,010.38	372.88	42,383.26	305.39	42,077.87	0.00
J.E. Bascom	0.00	0.00	10,726.74	103.64	10,830.38	0.00	10,830.38	0.00
C.D. Foster	0.00	0.00	1,866.90	16.66	1,883.56	0.00	1,883.56	0.00
West Lawn Cemetery	0.00	0.00	136,882.02	7,824.19	144,706.21	0.00	144,706.21	0.00
Total Trust Funds	0.00	0.00	1,605,289.31	110,710.67	1,715,999.98	68,056.71	1,647,943.27	0.00
Total All Expenditures	20,097,126.00	20,214,719.00	6,392,135.04	1,203,149.38	27,810,003.42	21,530,646.80	6,007,409.09	271,947.53

**TOWN CLERK / BOARD OF REGISTRARS**

Mary Courtney Kennedy, Town Clerk

Mary Courtney Kennedy, Town Clerk

Robert A. Jones, Registrar; Mark Windover, Registrar ; Philip Cantelon, Registrar

<b>Dog Licenses Issued – 2011</b>	
Male	22
Female	24
Neutered Male	371
Spayed Female	357
Kennel License (4 dogs)	0
Kennel License (10 dogs)	1

Net Value of Licenses	\$ 4262
Late Fees	\$ 475
Gross Value of Dog License	\$ 4737

<b>Vital Records Recorded in 2011</b>	
Births	30
Marriage Intentions	41
Marriage Licenses	39
Death	134

<b>Fish and Wildlife Licenses Issued – 2011</b>	
Resident Citizen Fishing	40
Resident Citizen Paraplegic/Blind Fishing	21
Resident Citizen Minor Fishing	2
Resident Citizen Fishing (65-69)	10
Resident 3-Day Fishing	0
Non-Resident Citizen/Alien Fishing	33
Non-Resident Citizen/Alien 3-Day Fishing	7
Non-Resident Small Game Hunting	1
Resident Citizen Hunting	16
Resident Citizen Hunting (65-69)	2
Resident Citizen Paraplegic/Blind Hunting	1
Resident Minor Hunting	1
Non-Residents Citizens/Alien Hunting-Big Game	19
Duplicate Licenses	1
Residents Citizens Sporting	20
Resident Citizen Sporting (65-69)	8
Residents Citizen Sporting – over 70	23
Mass. Waterfowl Stamps	11
Archery Stamps	26
Primitive Firearms Stamps	56

Gross Value of Fishing & Hunting Licenses	\$6253.20
Fees made by Town @ \$1.50 each	\$ 84.45
Net Value returned to Fisheries & Wildlife	\$6168.75



	ANNUAL TOWN ELECTION - MAY 10, 2011			
OFFICE	PREC. 1	PREC. 2	PREC. 3	TOTAL
SELECTMEN				
BLANKS	92	36	68	196
JANE ALLEN	225	83	236	544
DAVID REMPELL	210	80	229	519
WRITE INS	1	1	1	3
TOTAL	528	200	534	1262
WMST. ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ( 2 )				
BLANKS	90	26	85	201
WRITE INS	174	74	182	430
TOTAL	264	100	267	631
LIBRARY TRUSTEE 3 YEARS				
BLANKS	127	53	110	290
DAVID B. DEWEY	203	79	219	501
KATHLEEN SCHULTZE	198	68	205	471
WRITE INS	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	528	200	534	1262
PLANNING BOARD				
BLANKS	13	6	18	37
KEITH M. DAVIS	72	21	80	173
VAN ELLET	91	21	54	166
ELIZABETH P. MCGOWAN	87	52	115	254
WRITE INS	1	0	0	1
TOTAL	264	100	267	631
HOUSING AUTHORITY FIVE YEARS				
BLANKS	51	17	41	109
PETER MEHLIN	213	83	226	522
WRITE INS	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	264	100	267	631
HOUSING AUTHORITY 3 YEARS				
BLANKS	249	98	249	596
WRITE INS	15	2	18	35
TOTAL	264	100	267	631

The Annual Town Meeting was held on May 17, 2011, at which 301 registered voters checked in. Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting are available and can be viewed on the Town's webpage at [www.williamstown.net](http://www.williamstown.net) under the Town Clerk's page.

## **TOWN MANAGER**

### **Peter L. Fohlin**

Without question the most significant event of 2011 was Tropical Storm Irene on August 28. While most of the town escaped damage, The Spruces Mobile Home Park was devastated by the overflow from the Hoosic River. When the park opened in 1954 it was a national showplace. This is at least the fourth time the park has experienced major flooding since it opened. In the wake of TS-Irene, 162 of the 226 mobile homes are uninhabitable. The occupants of the 64 remaining homes are living in a vestige of their former community. With one-quarter of the utility infrastructure damaged beyond repair and only 64 homes remaining, the economic viability of the park under current ownership is in question. The Federal Emergency Management Agency and our local Long Term Recovery Group, Higher Ground, have worked tirelessly to provide aid and assistance to more than 300 survivors.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts continues to shift the burden onto local taxpayers with cuts to state aid for cities and towns. FY11 marked the fifth consecutive year of such cuts for Williamstown. These amounts do not even include hundreds of thousands of dollars of additional cuts in state aid at Mount Greylock Regional School District. Williamstown's net state aid is now less than it was in 2001. Despite these losses, we have managed to maintain services and avoid Proposition 2 ½ overrides.

The Sterling and Francine Clark Art Institute continues work on a multi-million dollar addition of fifty thousand square feet scheduled to open in 2014 at their world famous campus. Williams College lifted its freeze on capital projects to begin the \$128 million reconstruction of the Stetson-Sawyer Library. Not only will this be an impressive enhancement to the campus, but many local contractors and suppliers will benefit from the project.

The Town seems to be extricating itself from two legal skirmishes. Residents of Bee Hill Road sued Charles Fox and the Planning Board over a proposed sub-division off Bee Hill Road. The Land Court remanded several issues back to the Planning Board, which the Board ruled on and returned to the Land Court. Bee Hill Road legal fees over five years total \$30,815. All parties now await the Land Court's final ruling. The outcome of this suit does not represent a significant legal or additional financial exposure for the town.

The Town became concerned over a proposal by Beaver Wood Energy, LLC to site a wood-fired co-generation plant and pellet manufacturing facility just over the state line in Pownal. The facility generated passionate arguments on both sides of the environmental and economic issues. Air quality, water quality, traffic impact, and jobs were the primary issues. The Town was granted intervener status before the Vermont Public Service Board. Ultimately Beaver Wood decided to focus its energy at an alternate site in Fair Haven, Vermont. Legal fees associated with BWE-Pownal totaled \$5,625. This issue has been concluded and presents no legal or economic exposure to the Town.

The Town has one open lawsuit filed by Morgan MHP Mass, LLC (a/k/a Morgan Management-The Spruces) against the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the Town of Williamstown. In simple terms, Morgan seeks relief from the state's manufactured housing community regulations and strict enforcement by the Town of state building and health codes at The Spruces. Legal expenses to date total \$22,943. This suit does not represent a significant legal or additional financial exposure for the town.

The town's Aa2 bond rating is important to our ability to borrow money at the lowest possible cost. This will become important as the Town moves to address the need for a new police station, renovations and replacement of Mount Greylock Regional School District, and environmental compliance at Hoosac Water Quality District. In 2010 we were forced to withdraw \$150,000 from our stabilization fund to maintain services and balance the budget. Each year since, we have constructed conservative budgets and have made re-deposits to the stabilization fund to demonstrate financial discipline to Moody's Investor Services. Williamstown is one of only three communities in the Berkshires to enjoy an Aa2 rating by Moody's.

We continue to collaborate and cooperate with our neighbors in North and Central Berkshires on matters of mutual benefit. Adams, North Adams, and Williamstown share a Veterans Services Officer resulting in improved services for our veterans and savings for taxpayers. Veterans from all three communities can now access the VSO at all three offices five days a week. As the year was drawing to a close, we were in discussions to add Clarksburg and Florida to the group. The Hoosac Water Quality District continues to operate efficiently and economically to the benefit of North Adams and Williamstown ratepayers and the environment. We will continue to seek out mutually beneficial opportunities for collaboration with our neighbors.

Please visit the Town web site at [www.williamstown.net](http://www.williamstown.net). There you will find minutes of the Board of Selectmen's meetings and the Town Manager's twice-monthly Town Manager's Reports. Contact

information for all departments, office hours, the schedule of committee meetings, and voter registration information are among the many things found there. You can also pay tax bills and water/sewer bills on-line around the clock every day by check or credit card. Subscribe to our bulletin in the lower left corner of the web site to receive announcements of timely interest.

Williamstown municipal government is truly a team effort. Williamstown is very fortunate to have a strong cadre of experienced professionals in every position from building maintenance to plow driver to accounting. These professionals appreciate the support of the residents and taxpayers. Thank you all for everything you do.

## **TRANSFER STATION**

**Scott L. Park, Superintendent**

Not much has changed since my report from last year, except a change on our (Waste ban compliance plan) which is a permit modification on clean gypsum board called sheet rock. This means we know longer except sheet rock. With that being said the economy is still in the tank and the state has no new program that we have heard of. We were able to keep the transfer station rates level fund in 2011, which was a plus. The transfer station is still the place to meet neighbors doing the same thing each week disposing of there trash and recyclables.

Like every year, our recycling rates go up and down and in 2011 we recycled 96 tons. This means our recycling rate was up a little for co-mingle recycling, which is glass, cans and plastic, by 3 tons in 2011. Paper recycling was up too in 2011 with an increase of 3 tons. This means Williamstown residents continual to do a great job recycling. The combined recycling totals for 2011 was 329 tons, which is an increase of 9 tons from last year or approximately .03 % more.

Residents disposed of 386 tons of municipal solid waste (MSW) at the transfer station which was up a little from the previous year by 6 tons. Solid waste is any regular household waste that cannot be recycled.

We also disposed of 103 tons of demolition material this past year, consisting of old wood, windows, lawn furniture, old chairs and couches. This was down by 48 tons compared to last year's numbers. I believe demo is down do to economy and residents putting off projects and till things get better, our average is about 150 tons of demolition each year.

Last year we took in 95 yards of leaves, 190 yards of brush and 60 units of white goods consisting of disk washers, refrigerators and wash machines, 36 yards of logs, 27 yards stumps, 237 yards of wood chips and 213 yards brush which is about average.

Our electronics collection program of (computers, TVs and other electronic devices) will continue to be a year round program where residents can drop off old electronics at the transfer station for recycling. This past year we shipped 24,950 lbs compared to 13,700 lbs last year which was an increase of 11,250lbs. When we started this program we ship three containers with 21,050lbs of electronics annual, in 2010 we only shipped two containers and this past year we shipped four.

Just as a reminder to residents not to forget that we now have mercury shed for the collection of mercury containing products such as mercury switches, fluorescent light bulbs, mercury float switches and mercury thermometers that is run by the( Northern Berkshire Solid Waste District). This past year we shipped 1138.967lbs of mercury products for disposal.

We would also like to remind residents of the many services that we provide at the transfer station for a better Williamstown:

- Trash disposal
- Demolition disposal
- General Recycling
- White goods disposal
- Book swap
- Leaf disposal
- Brush disposal
- Wood disposal
- Wood chips disposal
- Paint collection site

- Waste oil recycling site
- Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day
- Dry battery collection
- Electronic collection
- Tire disposal

The Transfer Station is opened from 7:30 AM until 3:30 PM Tuesday - Friday and Saturday from 7:00 AM until 3:00 PM. If you have any questions about recycling or how to dispose of something, please do not hesitate to contact us at 458-5159. We would be glad to assist you.

**TREASURER & TAX COLLECTOR**  
**Janet Saddler, Treasurer and Collector**

**Treasurer's Receipts**  
*For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2011*

Department	Description	Amount
<b><u>Tax and Excise</u></b>		
Treasurer-Collector	Personal Property	247,296.44
Treasurer-Collector	Real Estate Tax	13,638,864.67
Treasurer-Collector	Motor Vehicle Excise	591,707.87
Treasurer-Collector	Interest on Property Tax	39,405.99
Treasurer-Collector	Interest on MV Excise	2,952.31
Treasurer-Collector	Interest on Tax Liens	5,311.74
Treasurer-Collector	Payments in Lieu of Tax	74,618.56
Treasurer-Collector	Meals Tax	108,658.87
Treasurer-Collector	Hotel and Motel Tax	360,226.67
Treasurer-Collector	Community Preservation-State Match	53,187.00
Treasurer-Collector	Community Preservation Surcharge	201,820.87
Treasurer-Collector	Community Preservation Surcharge Interest	571.40
Total Tax and Excise		<u>15,324,622.39</u>
<b><u>Utility Charges</u></b>		
Sewer Department	Sewer Charges	1,336,464.66
Water Department	Water Charges	1,182,739.09
Landfill Department	Landfill Payments	23,479.00
Landfill Department	Landfill Stickers	70,826.50
Landfill Department	Landfill Bags	69,863.00
Total Utility Charges		<u>2,683,372.25</u>
<b><u>Other Charges for Services</u></b>		
Cemetery	Cemetery Interments	20,550.00
Police	Off-Duty Fees	160,272.00
School	Cafeteria Receipts	63,622.34
Total Charges for Services		<u>244,444.34</u>
<b><u>Fees</u></b>		
Manager	Fees	1,182.00
Assessor	Fees	989.25

Treasurer - Collector	Fees	78,144.12
Town Clerk	Fees	8,346.26
Conservation Commission	Fees	2,647.31
Conservation Commission	Wetlands Fees	4,775.00
Sign Commission	Fees	180.00
Planning Board	Fees	2,190.00
Historical Commission	Fees	160.00
Zoning Board	Fees	1,710.00
Police Department	Fees	11,550.67
Police Department	Dispatch Services	50,333.75
Sealer of Weights	Fees	570.40
Building Inspector	Fees	10,991.15
School	Rental - Custodians	7,140.72
School	Tuition	96,433.24
Highway Department	Fees	8,106.00
Landfill Department	Fees	2,970.43
Sewer Department	Fees	2,374.00
Water Department	Fees	10,928.89
Cemetery Department	Perpetual Care	6,050.00
Health Department	Fees	25,222.30
Council on Aging	Fees	7,893.24
Library	Fees	8,705.00
Total Fees		<u>349,593.73</u>

#### **Licenses and Permits**

Selectmen	Licenses and Permits	3,140.00
Selectmen	Liquor Licenses	34,137.50
Town Clerk	Licenses and Permits	4,321.00
Sign Commission	Licenses and Permits	3,689.25
Police Department	Licenses and Permits	3,612.50
Building Inspector	Licenses and Permits	89,468.14
Gas Inspector	Licenses and Permits	3,295.00
Plumbing Inspector	Licenses and Permits	6,090.00
Wiring Inspector	Licenses and Permits	24,645.00
Health Department	Licenses and Permits	17,588.32
Total Licenses and Permits		<u>189,986.71</u>

#### **State Government - State Aid**

Treasurer-Collector	Veterans Services	4,322.00
Treasurer-Collector	Police Incentive	1,871.10
Treasurer-Collector	Abatement Reimbursement	26,999.00
Treasurer-Collector	State Owned Land	115,401.00
Treasurer-Collector	Chapter 70	890,585.00

Treasurer-Collector	Lottery	807,552.00
Treasurer-Collector	Federal Lunch Reimbursement	27,756.55
Treasurer-Collector	State Lunch Reimbursement	2,104.25
Treasurer-Collector	School Choice	208,424.00
Treasurer-Collector	Circuit Breaker	32,569.00
Treasurer-Collector	Urban Development Excise	26,639.00
Treasurer-Collector	Charter School	28,278.00
Total State Aid		<u>2,172,500.90</u>

#### **State Government - Grants**

Treasurer-Collector	DOE - Title I	7,354.00
Treasurer-Collector	School ARRA Grant	52,045.25
Treasurer-Collector	DOE - Title II Math Science	2,444.00
Treasurer-Collector	DOE - P.L. 94-412	78,875.00
Treasurer-Collector	DOE - Early Childhood Wee Grant	16,029.35
Treasurer-Collector	Early Literacy Grant	1,875.00
Treasurer-Collector	DOE - Quality Kindergarten Grant	29,000.00
Treasurer-Collector	E-911	6,889.57
Treasurer-Collector	Police- Systems Improvement	23,273.10
Treasurer-Collector	Police-Drug Task Force	7,470.82
Treasurer-Collector	Police Highway Safety Grant	3,600.00
Treasurer-Collector	Bullet Proof Vests	399.50
Treasurer-Collector	Polling Re-imbursement	774.00
Treasurer-Collector	Library Title LIG/MEG Grant	10,771.16
Treasurer-Collector	Emergency Management Grant	3,000.00
Treasurer-Collector	Council on Aging - Formula Grant	13,339.56
Treasurer-Collector	Design Grant	10,000.00
Total State Grants		<u>267,140.31</u>

#### **Fines and Forfeits**

Commonwealth	Court Fines	20,962.50
Police Department	Parking Tickets	27,720.00
Total Fines and Forfeits		<u>48,682.50</u>

#### **Sale of Assets**

Cemetery	Sale of Lots	700.00
DPW	Sale of Fixed Assets	12,178.00
Total Sale of Assets		<u>12,878.00</u>

#### **Interest Income**

Treasurer-Collector	Investment Interest	58,694.58
Treasurer-Collector	Trust Interest	14,988.32
Total Interest Income		<u>73,682.90</u>

**Gifts and Contributions**

Police Department	Contribution - General	5,250.00
Cemetery	Burbank Chapel	25.00
School	Adventures in Learning Gifts	4,176.00
School	Sunrise Spanish Gifts	3,625.00
School	School PTO Educational Materials	18,542.14
School	Library Books	2,402.42
School	Field Trips	4,001.49
School	5th and 6th Grade Fund	18,341.21
School	Teacher Salary	4,300.00
School	Outdoor Classroom	3,360.60
School	Music	3,813.00
Council on Aging	Donations & Fundraisers	5,612.26
Library	Operations Gifts	19,385.00
Library	Museum Pass Gift	10,000.00
Library	Books	4,974.91
Town/School	Health Coordinator	1,932.00
Total Gifts and Contributions		<u>109,741.03</u>

**Payroll and Insurance**

Payroll Deductions	Federal Withholding	705,256.82
Payroll Deductions	Medicare Withholding	202,636.12
Payroll Deductions	State Withholding	345,600.48
Payroll Deductions	Retirement Withholding	663,129.24
Payroll Deductions	Health Insurance	1,691,813.08
Payroll Deductions	Life Insurance	30,978.84
Payroll Deductions	Dental Insurance	96,533.45
Payroll Deductions	Other Withholdings	263,855.92
Total Payroll and Insurance		<u>3,999,803.95</u>

**Fund Transfers**

Transfers between Funds	<u>219,332.19</u>
Total Fund Transfers	<u>219,332.19</u>

**Miscellaneous**

Miscellaneous	Sherman Burbank Trust Distribution	16,984.00
Miscellaneous	Williamstown Scholarship Fund	4,302.41
Miscellaneous	Cemetery Perpetual Care Distribution	9,000.00
Miscellaneous	Miscellaneous Trust Contributions	39,638.15
Miscellaneous	Reimbursement for damages	2,930.19
Miscellaneous	Stabilization Distribution	25,000.00
Total Miscellaneous		<u>97,854.75</u>

**Total Receipts**25,793,635.95

## **VETERAN'S SERVICES**

### **Stephen Roy, Veteran's Agent**

The Office of Veteran Services is directly responsible for providing veterans' benefits under Chapter 115 of the General Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. This important need-based program provides financial assistance to eligible veterans and their dependents and can provide a measure of relief from crushing poverty and hopelessness. The veterans of our community who are disabled, homeless, unemployed, underemployed or suffering from the trauma of war and have nowhere else to turn should seek the assistance of Stephen Roy - the Veteran Service Officer - whose office is located on the third floor of the Williamstown Municipal Building. Many veterans and their families in our community have been rescued from hunger and homelessness by the services provided by the Veteran Service Officer, who works closely with the Department of Veteran Services in Boston to help those in need.

Since his appointment to the office in May of 2011 Veteran Service Officer (VSO) Stephen R. Roy has made several procedural changes and improvements to ensure accurate bookkeeping and 100% approval of all submitted claims to the Department of Veteran Services (DVS). This certifies full reimbursement to the Town of Williamstown under the guidelines of 108 CMR § 13.02 (3). The Office of Veteran Services continues to see an increase in the number of claims filed and clients served; the associated cost to the community in paying these benefits escalates accordingly. Consequently the need for meticulous recordkeeping and guaranteed reimbursement by the Commonwealth to the Town of Williamstown is imperative.

Veteran Services also assists a great number of veterans with filing claims through the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). This intimidating process is extremely difficult to accomplish successfully - without assistance nearly all claims would be denied by the VA. We support these folks in acquiring the correct documentation, proper completion, and submission to the appropriate entity. Other services provided include but are not limited to: educational/employment assistance, dependency and indemnity compensation, alcohol/drug rehabilitation, housing assistance, referrals, and close contact with funeral homes and cemeteries to ensure all veterans' graves are properly honored. The Office of Veteran Services also serves as a depository for hundreds of thousands of documents and important records of historic value to the sons and daughters of Williamstown, maintained in secure archives.

The VSO maintains a very dynamic and flexible schedule serving not only the Town of Williamstown but the City of North Adams and towns of Adams, Clarksburg and Florida as well. The VSO often makes special appointments and house calls to the sick, bedridden or elderly who cannot easily make it to the Municipal Building to process documentation in person. The VSO also makes frequent duty calls to the hospital and skilled nursing/assisted living facilities in the area to assist veterans with their needs.

## **WATER AND SEWER**

### **Edward Rondeau, Superintendent**

2011 started with the departure of David Larabee from his position as the Water and Sewer Department's Foreman. David retired after 22 years of service to the Town, his problem solving abilities and conscientious work ethic will be sorely missed by the Department and customers alike. His drive to always put the customer first made him a standout employee for over two decades; we wish David a long happy and productive retirement.

The onset of Spring brought about the continuation and completion of the Main Street water main project, affording us redundant feeder mains to the East end of the water system, which has been an area of vulnerability for many years in our system. We are pleased to report that the project was under budget, and went very smoothly for our Department and the ratepayers affected during the project. One side benefit of the project was Main St. received nearly 3,000 feet of new wider (5') sidewalks on the North side, due to the location of the new 12" class 52 ductile iron water mains. The other advantage to the project was the North side of Main Street now has fire protection on that side of the street with large volume capability and three new fire hydrants.

The Water Department repaired eight breaks within the system this calendar year; most were caused by extreme movement in the ground due to severe weather conditions during the winter. The remaining breaks were caused by an aging infrastructure and general wear and tear over the last one hundred or so years of service!



The Sewer department continues to work on the reduction of Inflow and Infiltration through community outreach done during service calls. We continue utilizing our Vac. truck to finish clean and our tractor camera to work on video inspection of our vast 42 mile sanitary sewer collection system.

We continue to assist our ratepayers with opportunities to reduce our clean water input to the wastewater treatment plant, which in turn reduces our flow and consequently cost to unnecessarily process clean groundwater. We accomplish this through household visits which could entail televising the sewer laterals to ensure that only sewer is going to the sanitary mains, not footing drains, roof leaders or illegally connected sump pumps. We guide you our ratepayers in the proper direction to put the groundwater and/or rainwater back to drainage to naturally run off as it should, further reducing the stress on the sanitary sewer collection system.

Perpetual maintenance on the sewer system included the mechanical cleaning of sewer mains and finish cleaning with our Jet truck, herbicidal root treatment of several thousand feet of sewer done by DUKES Vaporoot out of Syracuse in November, and repetitive maintenance on our 20 pump stations in Town.

## **WILLIAMSTOWN HISTORICAL MUSEUM**

**Carl Westerdahl, President**

**Nancy Burstein, Curator**

### Highlights of the Year

After much discussion and planning, our organization's change of name from Williamstown House of Local History to Williamstown Historical Museum became official, with its acceptance by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in the summer 2011. The Board voted for the name change because it felt that the name House of Local History was unclear, that some visitors mistook the more visible 1753 House for the House of Local History, and because "museum" makes it clear that we are a visitor destination with exhibits to view.

In conjunction with our name change we obtained a more prominent sign at the entrance to the library driveway, which has effectively alerted some visitors to our presence.

The other major change in 2011 was the gift from an anonymous donor in honor of Henry Flynt, and known as the Flynt Fund, specifically to enable us to increase staff hours. As a result our Director/Curator, Sarah Currie, now works 20 hours a week, and Senior Curator, Nancy Burstein, now works 8 hours a week as she eases towards retirement.

### Exhibits

Our orientation exhibit *From Wilderness to Williamstown* continues to draw rave reviews from visitors.

Rotating exhibits included *Horses Around Town*, curated by Bunny Smith, focusing on the extensive role of horses in town life before the internal combustion engine, and Williamstown in the Civil War, focusing on the stories of the 27<sup>th</sup> and 37<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts to "bring home how the war affected the people of one small country town in the Berkshires." Our traveling panel exhibit spent the first part of the year at Pine Cobble School, then moved to the '62 Center during the Williamstown Theater Festival season. It is currently taking a break from public view for some needed repair and renewal. Our "mini exhibits" have continued at the Williamstown Savings Bank and Town Hall with two historic photos from the collection at each site that change monthly. These are primarily designed to pique awareness and interest, and to bring people into the museum.

### Outreach and Public Programs

In addition to exhibits, public programs are another way we fulfill our mission of making town history accessible to the public. In 2011 our programs included *The Rise and Fall of Fraternities at Williams*, presented by John Chandler; *The Trains We Rode*, presented by John Hyde; *Land Conservation: Preserving Community History*, presented by Leslie Reed-Evans; *The Five Buildings of the First Congregational Church: From Log Cabin to Community Landmark*, presented by Carl Westerdahl; and *How the Williamstown Summer Theatre became the WTF*, presented by Rita Watson.

Our 2011 Historic House Tour, chaired by Rita Watson, was enthusiastically received and highly successful as a fundraiser.

The museum had a presence at both the Sundays@6 events on Spring Street during the summer, and at the Holiday Farmers Markets in November and December, to increase public awareness of the organization and the resources we offer.

### Education

In what has come to be a standard part of the curriculum, our Traveling Trunk of period clothing and artifacts spent time at Pine Cobble School, where it served as the core of a hands-on history exploration for second graders, and for the first time, these curricular activities culminated in a field trip to the museum for the students. Visits by the Williamstown Elementary School third grade classes followed, and we were extremely fortunate to have the assistance of Dick Steege, a wonderfully creative, retired elementary school teacher, to help plan and implement the program for all these visits and to provide some in-class activities as background before the students' visit to the museum. He continues to work as a liaison between the museum and teachers in an attempt to increase the use of material from our collection in the classroom.

### Research Assistance

Our resources are utilized not only for education and public programs, but also in responding daily to the many inquiries for genealogical assistance, house history research, student research, professional research, and programs and visits arranged by request for groups such as the Cub Scouts or a Williamstown High School reunion group. Our primary genealogy researcher, David Primmer, responded to approximately 24 requests in 2011, spending between one and several hours on each. They can sometimes be complicated by multiple spellings of names that lead to confusion. One request from a re-enactor in Canada on his ancestor Samuel McKay, led David to find the 1796 gravestone of his wife and child in Westlawn cemetery. David also spent over 20 hours researching in the national Archives researching people for our Civil War exhibit, where he found over 90 pages of pension records. Beyond genealogy, we assisted a gentleman from Germany who was intrigued by the 1753 House during a visit to town, and wrote a Wikipedia article about it (you can access the article- in German- at [http://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/H%C3%BCtte\\_von\\_1753](http://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/H%C3%BCtte_von_1753)). Another interesting research request came from a woman writing a book about her family's dairy farm in Beloit. She was looking for information about Mount Hope because her father, who bred dairy cows, met and was influenced by E. Parmalee Prentice. Locally, we assisted the Education subcommittee of the MGRHS School Committee in its research on the early history of MGRHS.

### Nuts and Bolts

Maintaining our collection of historical resources is a time-consuming operation. In 2011 we received 65 separate gifts, 19 from first-time donors. Most of the gifts consisted of multiple items, increasing our collection by more than 300 separate items that required sorting, evaluating, cataloguing, and processing. Two part-time staff members and two college interns provide approximately 36 hours per week of staffing, but our ongoing work and many special projects were possible only with more than 900 additional hours generously donated by our faithful volunteers.

### A Broad Constituency

While we would expect our resources to serve primarily a local constituency, many people from elsewhere who have family ties to Williamstown visit, as increasingly do tourists to the area. The majority of visitors are from the geographic area between Williamstown, Pittsfield, Adams, and Bennington, but others come from eastern Massachusetts and neighboring New York and Connecticut, and still others from further afield. In 2011 our small museum's guestbook contained signatures from 20 states and 3 foreign countries: the Republic of Korea, Israel, and England.

### We Must Be Doing Something Right

Among comments from visitors to our exhibits:

"Quite Impressive!"

"I love this place!"

"Excellent displays- creative, informative, and interesting"

"Created with love and care"

"Locally relevant and historically accurate."

## **WILLIAMSTOWN HOUSING AUTHORITY**

**Betty Ann LaBombard, Executive Director**

**35 Adams Road**

**Williamstown, Massachusetts 01267**

**Tel: 413 458-8282 Fax: 413 458-9698**

The Williamstown Housing Authority administers a total of 150 units of subsidized housing, both rental assistance and conventional units. This includes: 30 elderly apartments, Meadowvale, on Adams Road, 97 units of federally subsidized Section 8 rental assistance, 8 units of family housing at the corner of Cole Avenue and Stetson Road, 8 units for people with special needs on Adams Road, and 7 state funded rental vouchers. Our office is located at Meadowvale, 35 Adams Road.

We are presently accepting applications for elderly and family housing. However, our Section 8 Federally funded rental assistance program waiting list is closed at the present time, due to the number of applicants.

The members of the Williamstown Housing Authority are: Mark Reinhardt – Chairman and State Appointee, Kathy Thompson, Richard Hamblin, Peter Mehlin and Van Ellet.

The Executive Director is Betty Ann Labombard.

## **WILLIAMSTOWN YOUTH CENTER**

**David Rempell, Executive Director**

**Michael Williams, Assistant Director**

**Diane Sullivan, Assistant Director**



EXTERIOR - OPTION A



FEBRUARY 11, 2011

## **WILLIAMSTOWN YOUTH CENTER**



By the time town meeting takes place in May, construction will have begun on the “New” Williamstown Youth Center. The timeline for construction has us moving into the new facility by November 2012. This project is made possible by the incredible support of our community which has raised, to date, more than \$ 4.2 million in cash and pledges. Everyone who has donated to the campaign, no matter the amount of the contribution, will be recognized on our “wall of honor” in the new building. We are looking forward to a community-wide celebration at the “ribbon-cutting” ceremony in November.

In addition to all of the work that has gone into the planning for the new facility, lots of energy is being devoted to its use. A survey of community members was distributed earlier this year to help us gather input for new programs for children. A new website was created which will allow families to register their child(ren) for programs “online.”

In addition, Youth Center staff is excited about the prospects of partnering with other cultural groups in our community to enhance programming for children.

It is important that we, as a community, remind ourselves of the objectives of the Youth Center. These objectives are stated in our mission and vision statements as follows:

**Mission:** The Williamstown Youth Center is committed to nurturing the educational, recreation, social and emotional well-being of the youth and families in Williamstown and surrounding communities through quality programs for all.

**Vision:** The Williamstown Youth Center will serve children and their families during non-school hours by providing quality educational, recreational and artistic programs. Our programs will foster the development of healthy lifestyles in a safe, well-supervised and challenging environment. In addition, the Youth Center facility will be made available to other community groups when space is available.

The Williamstown Youth Center continues to offer programming for children throughout the year. Our After-School program provides homework assistance, daily art classes, many recreational and sports activities and, very importantly, a healthy snack for children each day. It is a pleasure for us to welcome new members to our program. Many Williams College and Mt. Greylock High School students work with us at the after-school program and serve as wonderful friends and role-models for our children. We look forward to welcoming many more middle and high school students to our programs once we move into the new facility.

The Williamstown Youth Center's full-day summer camp and school vacation week programs offer a variety of programs for children. These programs include many field trips to local cultural and recreational venues. Many children from other towns often join us during these camp programs. When school is cancelled due to poor weather conditions, the Youth Center is open for daily activities.

Many adults in our community participate in Youth Center sports programming throughout the year. The Youth Center facilitates programs in most major sports. Children receive instruction in swimming, ice skating/hockey, soccer, basketball, track and field, etc., learning new skills while having fun. The Youth Center Sports Philosophy Statement states that the most important skills for our young athletes are to have fun, improve playing skills, be a responsible team member and learn to love to play.

The Williamstown Youth Center held its annual Snowfest celebration on Sunday, February 5th at the Williams College field house and skating rink. Proceeds from Snowfest help support the operating budget of the Youth Center and allows us to continue to provide financial support for families so that all children can participate in Youth Center activities. As always, Snowfest provided a vast assortment of activities for children and families. Snowfest could not take place without the support of Williams College, the many student athletes at Williams, Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts and Mt. Greylock Regional High School, and many local businesses.

The Board of Directors has worked very hard this year both working on the campaign and providing ongoing guidance to the operations of the Youth Center. Members of the Board include Paul Jennings (President), Dave Armet (Vice-President), Ronadh Cox (Secretary), Russ Howard (Treasurer), Marc McDermott, John Hogan, Duffy Judge, Christi Kelsey, Katie Kent, Kim Kuster, Madeline Levy, Sarah Rosenberg and Tom Welch.

The Williamstown Youth Center could not do what it does without the incredible support of our community. All of us are incredibly grateful to all of our volunteer coaches, generous donors and to everyone who helps to make the Youth Center the "hub" of so much community activity. We receive major support from the Community Chest and Town of Williamstown. In addition, Williams College and the Williamstown Elementary School provide space for many of our programs. To all, thank you for your support.

## **ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS**

**Andrew Hoar, Chairman**

The Zoning Board of Appeals is comprised of 5 members and 3 alternate members. Serving on the Board in 2011 were Andrew Hoar; Chairman, Keith Davis, John Holden David Levine, and Leigh Short. Alternate Members are Arthur LaFave, David Ranzer, and Larry Wright. In June 2011 The Board saw the end of long time member Keith Davis's term. The Board thanks Keith for his many years of service to the Zoning Board, his comments and insight will be missed. In July 2011 the Board welcomed member Ryan Neathawk to the seat formerly held by Mr. Davis.

The Board meets on the third Thursday of every month to hear and decide petitions arising from the application of the Williamstown’s Zoning Bylaws. These petitions fall into four categories:

- Variances seek relief from the requirements of the Bylaws due to particular circumstances that are unique to a property.
- Special Permits seek permission for uses or changes allowed under the Bylaws under certain conditions. These permits allow the Board to permit important projects while protecting neighborhoods from adverse impacts.
- Administrative Appeals seek relief from a decision made by the Zoning Enforcement Officer.
- Comprehensive Permits seek permission to circumvent certain local zoning laws to construct affordable housing under the authority of Massachusetts General Law Ch. 40B.

In 2011 the Board took action on the following applications:

	Applications	Approved	Withdrawn	Denied
Variances	1	0	1	0
Special Permits	17	14	1	1
Admin. Appeals	0	0	0	0
Comp. Permit	0	0	0	0

The bulk of the hearings for the past year were for special permits for home occupation or for changes to non-conforming residential structures. 2011 saw several notable project approvals, including approval of Special Permits and Development Plans for the new Williamstown Youth Center. This new building will be built adjacent to the Elementary School, and replaces an older facility on Cole Avenue. Special Permits were also approved for Verizon Wireless to allow 4G capable wireless equipment on both of the company’s Williamstown installations. 2011 also saw a proposal for an AT&T wireless phone tower at Mount Greylock High School. This special permit was denied. Another proposal from AT&T for a tower near Oblong Road was withdrawn by the petitioner. Other approvals included site plan amendments to the Clark Art Institute’s ongoing major reconstruction project, and approval of a medical office tenant at 187 Main Street.



The Zoning Board listens to presentations on the development plan for the new Williamstown Youth Center.